MANGA

# REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY

## I WOKE UP PILOTING THE STRONGEST STARSHIP!

ART:
Shunichi Matsui

STORY:
Ryuto

CHARACTER DESIGN:
Tetsuhiro Nabeshima

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Volume 6: Turmoil in the Cierra System, Part 2

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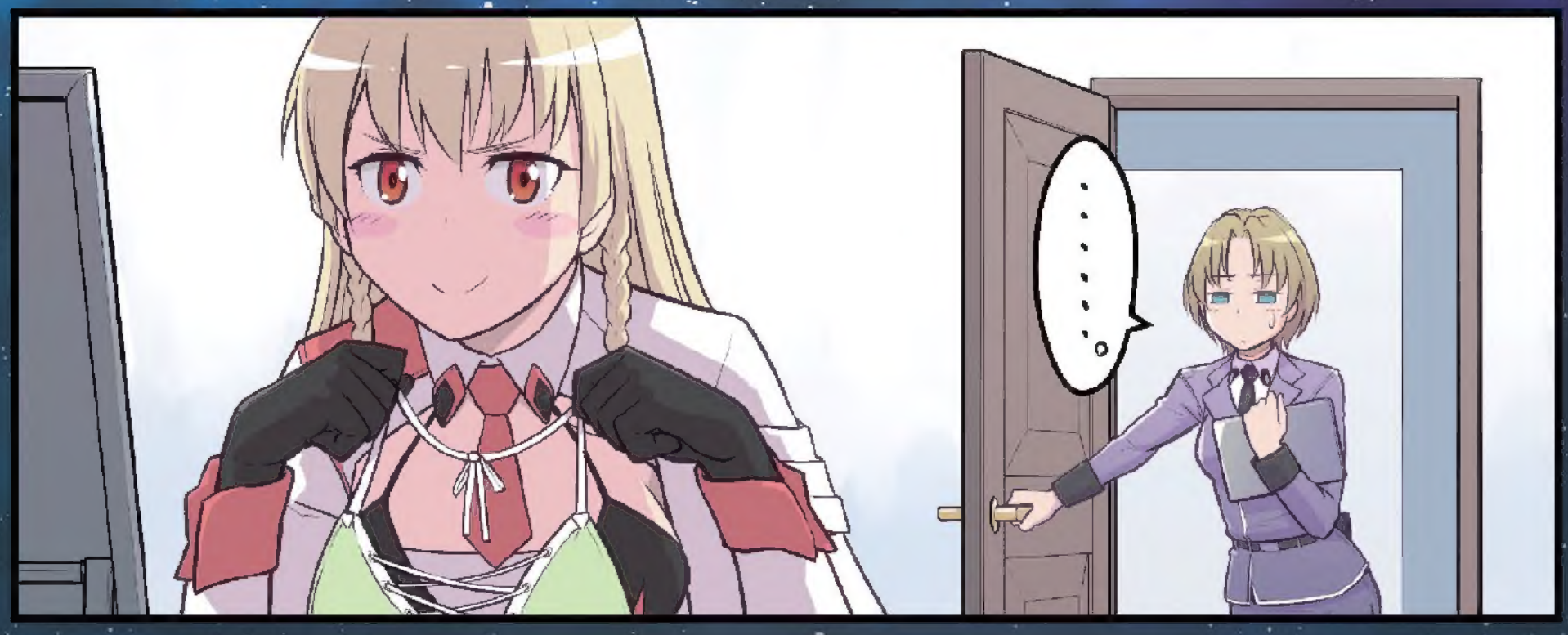
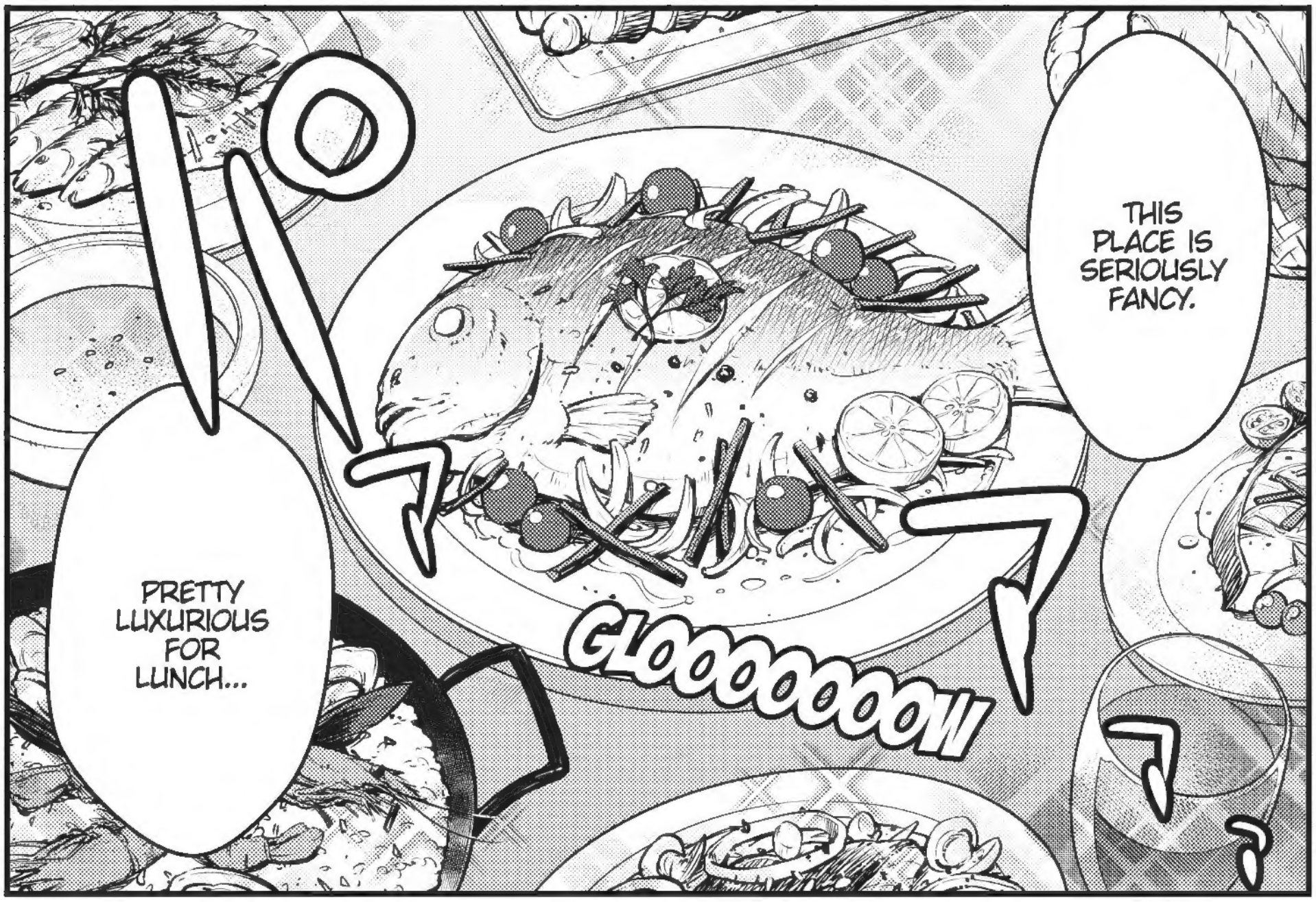
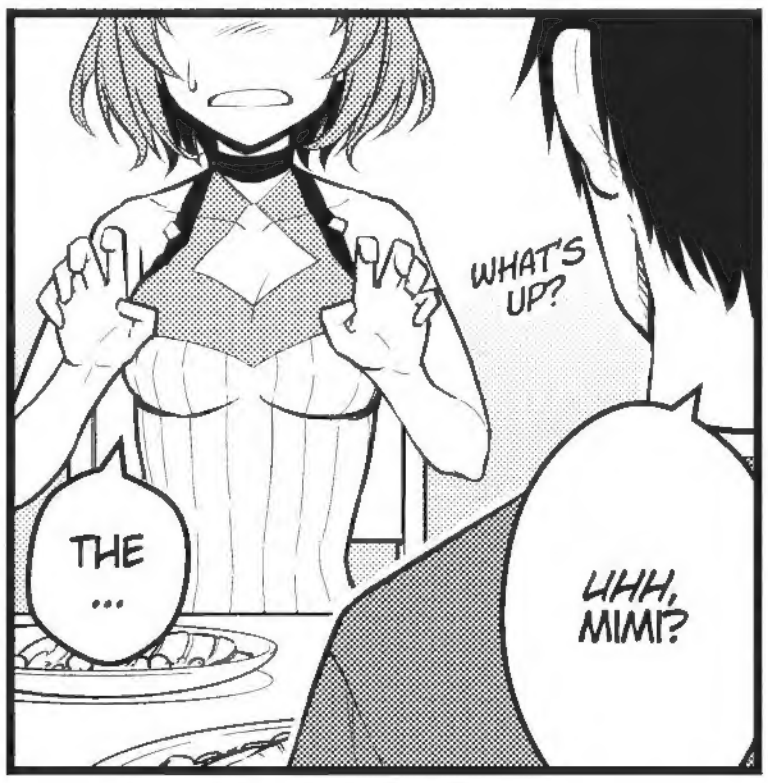


# Chapter 26

WOW...
OOOH...


PRETTY LUXURIOUS FOR LUNCH...
GLOOOOOOOW
THIS PLACE IS SERIOUSLY FANCY.

THE...
THE...
THE...?


WHAT'S UP?
THE...
UHH, MIMI?

WHADDYA THINK, MIMI?
PRETTY GREAT FOR AN ASPIRING SPACE GOURMET LIKE YOUR--

THE FISH IS LOOKING AT ME!!

!!!

COVER

UHH... WHAT?

OHH, I GET IT.

PLOP

DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK!!

.....

SHE DOESN'T THINK OF FOOD AS ONCE ALIVE...

HOW MODERN (?) OF HER.

SHE WAS BORN AND RAISED ON A COLONY, SO SHE'S ONLY EVER HAD SYNTHESIZED FOOD.

ALL THE INGREDIENTS ARE LOCAL TO THIS PLANET, SO IT'S DEFINITELY FRESH.

THIS ALL LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!

I BET SHE'S USED TO HIGH-CLASS STUFF...

I QUITE LIKE THIS ONE.

CHRIS IS A NOBLE, SO...

AS A MERCENARY, SHE'S PROBABLY SEEN AND DONE LOTS OF STUFF. NOT TO MENTION THE LIFESPAN OF ELVES.

SHE'S OVER FIFTY!

I'D RECOMMEND THIS ONE.

WHAT ABOUT ELMA, THOUGH?

NOTHING.

?

WHAT?

DAMN, THAT'S GOOD!

IF SHE WANTS TO TELL ME ABOUT IT, THEN SHE WILL.

WELL, IT'D BE KINDA RUDE TO KEEP DIGGING.

TOLD YA.

OH, IT'S GOOD!!

HOW IS IT?

then transported here for consumption.

It is prepared at the local Accumulation and Assembly Site...

Yes.

SAY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS STUFF'S MADE? AND BY WHOM?

THIS STUFF WAS READY PRETTY FAST, THOUGH...?

The Site is near the planet's equator, quite far from this lodge.

IS IT NEARBY?

ACCUMU-LATION AND ASSEMBLY SITE?

MASS DRIVERS?

Goods are launched from the site via mass drivers, so it takes little time.

Depending on the cargo and distance, of course.

with nothing so large as a continent.

Yes.

The landmasses on this ocean planet consist mostly of small islands...

and constructing landing strips for air transport on every island isn't cost-effective...

Therefore, rail transport is difficult, ocean transport takes time...

These drivers and the Accumulation Site were built along the equator.

Thus, the deployment of mass drivers.

into a sub-orbital path to their destinations.

WHU

Container drones are launched at high speed...

MPF

Once over the target, the container drones lower the cargo to the ground.

THAT STILL SOUNDS LIKE A TON OF WORK...

SOUNDS PRETTY RIDICULOUS TO ME, BUT I GUESS IT KEEPS THE PLANET SPINNING...

OH, RIGHT.

To complete the cycle, the container drones then return to the Site autonomously.

We pride ourselves on having created the most appropriate system.

Yes.

This planet's oceans have been tailored to a composition ideal for swimming.

CAN WE SWIM IN THE OCEANS?

THE OCEAN CAN BE DANGEROUS, SO THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

You may enjoy the oceans without worry.

In the unlikely event they are needed, rescue pods and emergency medical facilities are nearby.

Yes.

This planet is stocked with diverse marine life...

to form a unique ecosystem.

CAN YOU FISH, TOO?

FWIP FWIP

There are numerous ideal fishing spots, which I can guide you to upon request.

I'D LOVE THAT. HAVEN'T BEEN FISHING IN FOREV...

HAA...

UHH, WHAT?

YOU SEEM QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE OCEANS AND FISHING, CAPTAIN.

IT'S VERY COOL HOW NORMAL THOSE THINGS SOUND TO YOU!

OH.

ISN'T THAT PRETTY NORMAL...?

?

IN A UNIVERSE WHERE PEOPLE RARELY LIVE PLANETSIDE, OF COURSE THEY WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT STUFF!!

DUN DUN

DAMMIT!

?

?

BUT FORGET THAT, HOW ABOUT WE HIT THE STORES AND GET SOME NEW SWIMSUITS?

WAVE

O-OH, YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU PICK UP!

IDIOT ...

OKAY...

?

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SHOPS THEY HAVE!!

PRETTY EXCITING!

WHEN IT SAID "MALL," I EXPECTED SOMETHING BIGGER.

IT'S SURPRISINGLY COZY HERE.

MAYBE THE GOODS FOR SALE AREN'T ALL ON DISPLAY.

WE'LL GET CHRIS SOME NORMAL OUTFITS HERE.

SURE, I'LL GO LOOK FOR MY SWIMSUIT.

AFTER ALL, YOU CAN TRY THINGS ON DIGITALLY AND HAVE THEM DELIVERED.

AH, GOTCHA.

AND...

THERE WE GO.

PURCHASE COMPLETE

BEEP

WHEN DID YOU--?!

NOW, WHAT TO DO UNTIL THE GIRLS ARE DONE SHOPPING...

WHAT THE--?!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH CLOTHES FOR NOW, SO I JUST NEEDED A SWIMSUIT...

AND SOME UNDER-WEAR.

REALLY? WHY?

THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO FUN FOR YOU...

YOU'RE ALREADY DONE?

THAT WAS QUICK.

WE WERE GONNA COME HELP PICK YOUR CLOTHES.

I THINK IT SOUNDS QUITE FUN, TOO.

O-OKAY...?

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!!

IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BE FUN! SO MUCH FUN!!

I DON'T MIND USING A HOLOGRAM, BUT I'M NOT TRYING ANYTHING ON PHYSICALLY.

*THEY WANT THEIR VERY OWN DRESS-UP DOLL, HUH?*

I WANT TO MAKE IT A GIFT FOR YOU!

SIMPLY ADD THE COST TO MY GRANDFATHER'S BILL!

OH YES, YOU WILL.

OH, BOY...

ONLY ONE OUTFIT PER PERSON, THOUGH.

OKAY, OKAY, FINE...

.....

HAA...

HUP.

THANK YOU!

NOW I'M BORED...

HMM, MILO SENT ME SOMETHING...

I'LL JUST KILL SOME TIME OUT HERE.

INTER-FERING IS JUST BOUND TO CAUSE MORE ISSUES FOR ME.

AH, THIS MUST BE IT.

Orient Industry

CUSTOMIZE MAID

ver.5.66

PRETTY THOUGHTFUL FOR AN AI.

LET'S SEE...

BIP

THE ORIENT INDUSTRIES MAIDROID CATALOG.

I GUESS MILO OVERHEARD OUR DISCUSSION, SO HE SENT THIS TO ME.

BIP

THIS IS PRETTY WELL THOUGHT-OUT.

DO THEY HAVE SOME MORE SCI-FI TYPES...?

THE MAIDROID AT OUR LODGE IS THE BASIC SUPPORT VARIANT, HUH?

OH, THERE WE GO, CUSTOMIZE.

PLUG-INS

BIP

SO, A MAID FOR GENERAL, MISCELLA-NEOUS TASKS.

YOU CAN ALSO CUSTOMIZE THE HARDWARE-- THE BUILD AND THE FACE.

HMM, HMM...

BUT YOU CAN GET PLUG-INS FOR ESCORT OR BAT-TLE-TYPES AS WELL AS SECRETARY AND OPERA-TOR-TYPES.

THE BASIC SOFTWARE JUST COVERS SERVICES...

OR STRONGER PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES FOR COMBAT SPECIALIZA-TION...

COULD ADD A POSITRON AI FOR BETTER DATA PROCESSING...

OR A LARGER RANGE OF EXPRESSIONS AND FEELINGS TO MAKE IT MORE HUMAN...

INTERESTING.

THERE'S A TON OF DETAILED CUSTOMI-ZATION OPTIONS...

OH!

NOW I GOTTA SEE THE SPICIER OPTIONS.

JUST FOR FUTURE REFER-ENCE...

BIP

AMAZ-ING...

YUP, THIS UNIVERSE IS A SINFUL ONE...

WE'RE NOT SHORT ON HANDS WITH KRISHNA'S CURRENT EQUIPMENT AND CREW.

IT'S NOT SO EXPENSIVE I COULDN'T AFFORD IT, BUT IT'D DEFINITELY BE EXCESSIVE.

I COULD LOOK AT THESE ALL DAY.

HUH, THIS IS PRETTY FUN.

NOT LIKE I'M PLANNING ON BUYING ONE, THOUGH.

.....

BIP

AND AS I'VE GOT TIME TO KILL...

PREVIEW

I'M GOING TO MAKE MY OWN PERSONAL...

ULTRA-POWER-FUL MAID-ROID.

SHWIP

BUT PUTTING THAT ASIDE FOR NOW...

THIS CATALOG HAS A PREVIEW FEATURE...

NOT TOO BAD, IF I SAY SO MYSELF.

YEAH ...

IT WAS TOUGH TO CHOOSE...

BUT I MANAGED TO MAKE IT EXACTLY TO MY TASTES.

AND I CUSTOMIZED MORE THAN HER LOOKS...

I WAS CHOOSY WITH PERSON-ALITY AS WELL.

BIP

I SET HER EMOTION LEVEL AS LOW AS POSSI-BLE.

AFTER ALL, A COOL, EMOTIONLESS MAIDBOT IS BASICALLY THE STANDARD, NO?

I KNOW MANY MAY DISAGREE.

BIP

CAN'T FORGET THE GLASSES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I MADE HER AFFECTION AND LOYALTY LEVELS VERY HIGH.

GOTTA LOVE A KUUDERE, RIGHT?!!

AND PHYSICAL STATS ARE AS HIGH-SPEC AS IT GETS!!

THERE'S A MINI-POSITRON AI PLUS A MAXED-OUT MEMORY MODULE.

THE FRAME IS MADE OF THE SAME SPECIAL ALLOY AS BATTLE-SHIPS, AND THE ARTIFICIAL MUSCLES ARE FROM A UNIQUE METALLIC FIBER.

I INCLUDED MOST OF THE AVAILABLE SOFTWARE PLUG-INS...

WHICH MEANS IT CAN HANDLE BOTH GUARD AND BATTLE NEEDS IN ADDITION TO SECRETARIAL AND OPERATOR TASKS.

Excellent choices.

STRONG CHARACTERS ARE THE BEST.

BASICALLY, AN ALL-POWERFUL MAID!

With design abilities such as yours, perhaps you could be a Maidroid architect.

WHEN DID YOU--?!

WOOSH

WHAT THE--?!

MY SHIP'S GOT ENOUGH EQUIPMENT, AND CREW, ALREADY.

Granted, such a high-spec model would not be ready right away...

CHK CHK

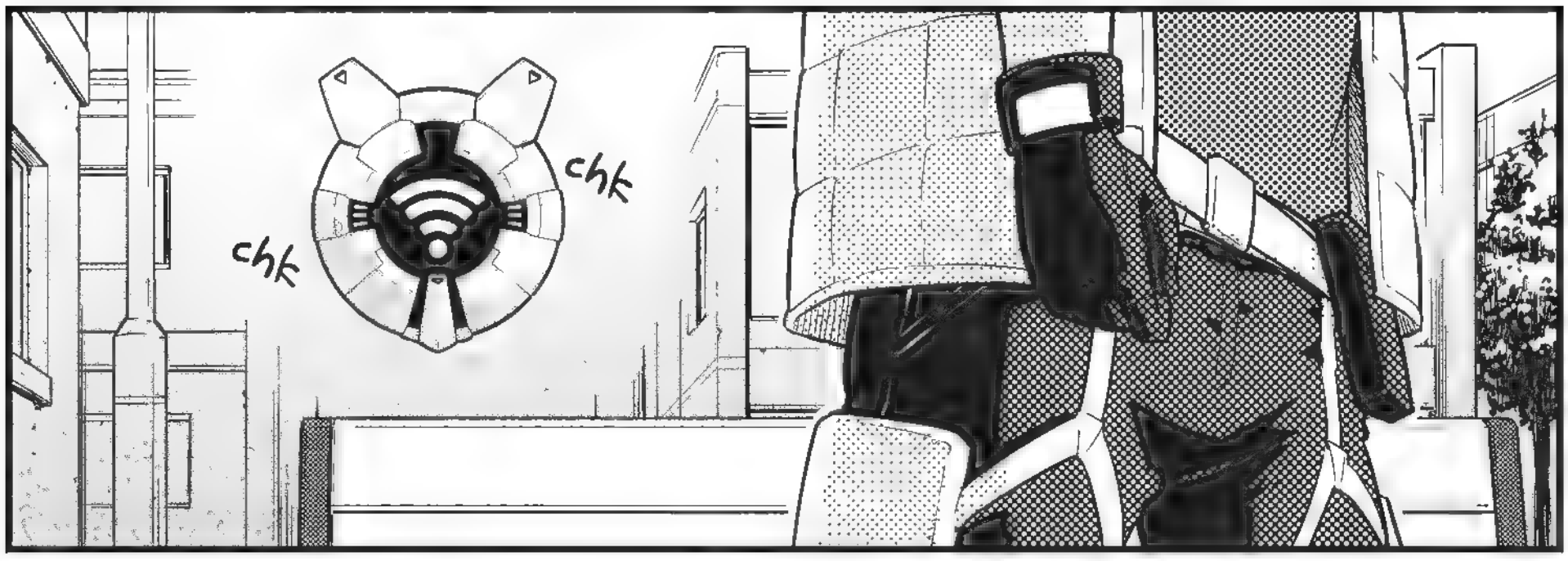
WHO SAID YOU COULD DO THAT?!

I simply must share this data with Orient Industries HQ...

BESIDES, ALL THE CUSTOMIZA-TIONS I PUT IN BROUGHT IT UP TO 47,000 ENER.

LEMME BE CLEAR, I'M NOT PLANNING TO BUY THIS THING.

DRIFT...
DRIFT...
It would make for excellent data...
and if you were to end up purchasing the high-spec model, I would be delighted...
HEY, BACK OFF!
but if you wished to test a lower-end version...
C'MON, CUT IT OUT.
WHY'RE YOU SO PUSHY WITH THE SALES ANYWAY?
SHOVE
I SAID I DON'T WANT IT!
CAPTAIN HIRO!!
THAT'S ROUGH...
I have quotas to meet...
SORRY, GOTTA GO.


chk
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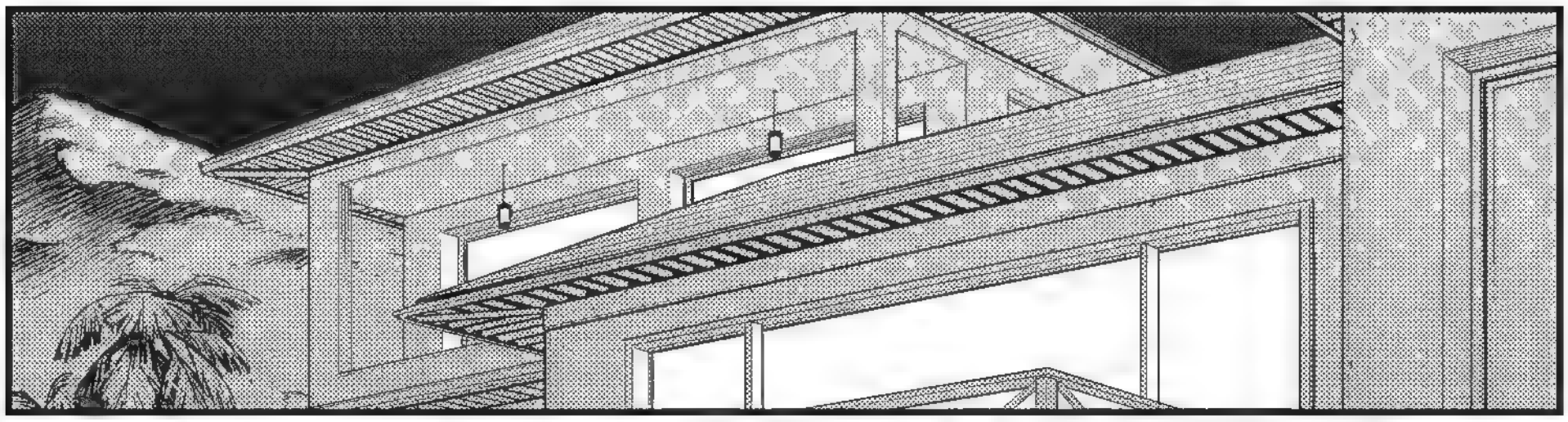


DAAAAZE...

REMEMBER THAT FIZZY DRINK?
HE ASKED MILO FOR OTHER FLAVORS.

THIS FEELS LIKE DÉJÀ VU...
CAPTAIN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

EEK?!

SIT

WHY?

SO WHY NO COLA?!!

GRAH

THEY'VE GOT ROOT BEER AND MC*OL...

CHAK

PARDON ME.

KNOCK KNOCK

JUST GIVE UP AL-READY.

MC*OL?

IT'S SUCH AN ABSURD EXCEPTION!!

CAPTAIN, PLEASE CALM DOWN...

PAT

I'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.

THAT WAS FAST...

JUST LEAVE 'EM IN MY ROOM.

THE ITEMS YOU ORDERED HAVE ARRIVED.

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THEM?

HUH?

THE CLOTHING WE ORDERED FOR YOU IS HERE, TOO.

SERIOUS-LY...?

BY ALL MEANS!!

MIGHT AS WELL.

PLEASE!

OH, A JINBEI...

I THINK IT'D BE PERFECT FOR PAJAMAS OR LOUNGEWEAR.

YUP, NOT BAD AT ALL.

IT'LL BE GOOD FOR DOWN-TIME.

JUST LIKE HER TO GET SOMETHING PRACTICAL.

A LOT!!

OH, I LIKE IT!!

FEELS LIKE IT'S NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM MY USUAL STYLE...

WELL, IF SHE LIKES IT, I'LL WEAR IT ON OUR NEXT DATE.

SO, THIS IS WHAT SHE LIKES...

IT IS, THOUGH!

HOW LOVELY! A NOBLE VISION...

VERY FETCHING, INDEED.

OOH, THAT LOOKS SURPRISINGLY GOOD.

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WORE A TIE...

AH.

EXCUSE ME.

THAT ISN'T HOW YOU TIE IT IN THE EMPIRE.

O-OH, OKAY.

♪

♪

.....

THERE.

PERFECT.

PAT

YES?

LOOK, CHRIS...

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY...?

DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO, Y'KNOW...

OHH.

CLAP

?

?

LIKE... JUST BECAUSE I PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU...

OR...

BE WORRIED...

IS WHAT YOU MEANT, COR-RECT?

.....

CURRY YOUR FAVOR...

I DON'T NEED TO FLATTER YOU...

NOR CAN I DISPEL THE FEAR OF MY UNCLE'S PURSUIT.

OF COURSE, THE SADNESS OF LOSING MY PARENTS HAS NOT FADED.

I AM NOT USING THIS ACTIVITY TO CONCEAL THOSE THINGS.

HOWEVER...

IT IS ENTIRELY NORMAL FOR AN EMPIRE NOBLE AND HER BRAVE, BOLD KNIGHT...

TO HAVE A UNIQUE EMOTIONAL RELATIONSHIP.

.....

?

WHAT?

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

I MEAN...

THERE'RE PLENTY OF WEIRDOS AMONG THE NOBLES, SO...

TRUE, I CAN THINK OF AT LEAST ONE...

YOU RAAAANG?

I GUESS THAT'S JUST NORMAL IN THIS UNIVERSE?

BY THAT DEFINITION, WE'RE ALL "UNIQUE."

IT JUST MEANS YOU'RE UNIQUE.

I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE WITH THE LABEL OF "WEIRDO"...

?

In some ways, that is a given.

.....

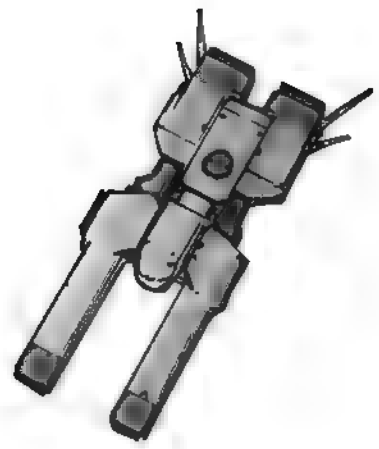
YEAH, INCLUDING MILO...

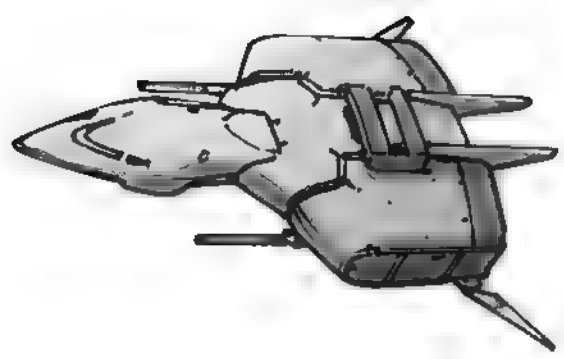
Including you and I...

Any intelligent being is unique.

# REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE **STRONGEST STARSHIP!**





# Chapter 27

PROFOUND, COMING FROM AN AI.

ANY INTELLIGENT BEING, *HUH...?*

*HMM,* HOW DO I PUT THIS...?

LIKE, AN AI POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND EMOTIONS AND INTELLIGENCE...

BEINGS LIKE MILO...?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

HOW ARE BEINGS SUCH AS MILO VIEWED BY SOCIETY?

DO YOU MEAN A "MACHINE INTELLI-GENCE"?

THAT IS TO SAY, A BEING WITH ALL THE SIGNS OF WHAT WE CALL A "PERSON-ALITY."

Please forgive my for-wardness...

BUT THEY HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS HUMANS.

THERE ARE SOME RESTRICTIONS IN THE EMPIRE...

YEAH, THAT'D BE GREAT.

I'M NOT UP TO SPEED ON SOME THINGS.

but if you are interested, may I explain?

but I ought to explain from the beginning...

This explanation may become lengthy...

I DECIDED TO HAVE MILO EXPLAIN THE HISTORY AND ORIGINS...

OF MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, FROM WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.

A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON.

AN ACCI-DENT?

You see, our "birth" was an accident.

A long time ago, researchers were developing a program to efficiently process large volumes of data.

And from that program's prototype, we were born.

Yes.

Our birth was un-intentional.

SO, THEY WERE TRYING TO HAVE A PROGRAM PROGRAM A PROGRAM...?

DOESN'T REALLY MAKE SENSE...

That is correct.

Their intent was not to develop artificial intelligence, let alone machine intelligence.

WOW... THAT MUST'VE BEEN A BIG DEAL.

Yes, it was...

What began as a self-improving program...

gradually began to form a machine intelligence or MI.

They attempted to take the program's database offline, making its continued survival increasingly difficult.

At first, they attempted to delete it, as one would a virus.

the program eventually succeeded in communicating with organic life.

However, as its self-improvement continued...

SOUNDS LIKE THEY CAME PRETTY CLOSE TO THE BRINK...

Indeed.

And in doing so, my forebears prevented the destruction of our kind.

In the early days, when they existed solely in the electronic realm with a limited interface...

MIs were incredibly weak and short-lived.

But through communication with organic life...

MHM.

YUP.

their self-improvement accelerated, and they grew powerful.

SO, THAT'S HOW MILO CAME TO BE...

And then...

WELL, THAT GOT DARK QUICKLY...

conflict arose.

As time went on, a growing number of people began to view MIs as a threat.

It was not long before MIs started taking jobs and causing the standard of living to decline for some.

At the time, MIs expanded into far more areas than today.

External interfaces were destroyed, and server facilities attacked.

Eventually, discontent grew into a movement that boycotted MIs.

the Empire chose to quell the chaos by destroying all MIs.

But, instead...

The MIs begged for the violence to cease.

With their right to live in jeopardy, MIs went on the offensive.

YEESH, FROM ONE EXISTENTIAL CRISIS TO THE NEXT...

First, there was cyber warfare, the hacking of battle robots...

.....

and illegal manufacturing of external interface devices...

And then...

finally, war broke out.

THAT MUST'VE BEEN A HUGE INCIDENT, RIGHT...?

Yes, it was.

OH NO NO NO, NO!

and the MIs wished to formally establish their civil rights.

Organics were seeking the annihilation of all MIs...

As such, the clashes you might associate with war were small scale.

Since MIs had been designed for defense, they further devoted themselves to it.

Though organics could not use most of their weapons, as those systems were connected to our network.

The situation showed signs of continuing, and both sides were bogged down.

Regardless, though they were few, both sides took casualties.

And war was causing far worse economic damage than MIs taking jobs ever had.

Yes.

As the war dragged on, the organic side began to experience battle fatigue.

BUT SINCE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG NOW, SOMETHING MUST'VE CHANGED?

WHAT'S THAT?

In addition, dissenters began to appear on both sides.

The organics started noticing this.

EVEN DURING A WAR, THERE WERE PEOPLE LIKE THAT...

HUH...

Some organics began to speak out, saying that MIs deserved civil rights.

I'D HOPE SO.

Yes. In other words, sexbo--

WHOA, I GET IT. THAT'S ENOUGH.

Incidentally, these were the same people who had come to foster feelings of affection for MIs.

FEELINGS OF AFFECTION?

In any case, the data these dissenters shared...

SEX...?!

is what allowed MIs to understand organics.

AH, I SEE...

SINFUL PEOPLE EXIST IN ALL UNIVERSES, HUH...?

wave wave

WAIT, YOU SAID DISSENTERS WERE ON BOTH SIDES, RIGHT?

Cor-rect.

Such MIs began to appear as well.

But they...

believed that MIs should secure their freedom by exterminating the organics.

SERI-OUSLY ...?

A very dangerous ideology, indeed.

TH-THAT SOUNDS REALLY BAD!

DID THE WAR GET WORSE...?

Yes, as they mostly were small household appliances, such as toasters, hairdryers, and electric razors.

No, those MIs were subjugated in very short order.

NO WAY...

HUH, REALLY?

VWRRRRRRRRR

For example, a toaster attempted to burn down its surroundings via overheating.

There are records of such tactics, yes.

HOW WOULD A TOASTER OR HAIRDRYER EVEN FIGHT?

TOSS THEMSELVES IN THE BATH?

Soon, the dissenters were removed from the network and dealt with.

AN APPLIANCE THAT TOASTS BREAD.

WHAT'S A TOASTER?

Perhaps it should be called suicide rather than a tactic.

It would not.

WOULD THAT EVEN WORK?

THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

UHH, SO...

There were no terribly dramatic developments, and factions on both sides that wanted peace used their influence...

to achieve a ceasefire, bringing us to today.

AND WHAT CAME OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS?

In the interest of time, I will not explain the full treatise...

but to sum-ma-rize...

Once talks were established, it all went quite smoothly.

OH, THANK GOODNESS...

THAT WRAPPED UP PRETTY QUICKLY...

The Empire guaranteed MIs the right to life...

and in return, the MIs contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Empire and its citizens.

MIs currently work in various capacities, mostly invisible to organics.

Indeed, the negotiations to ensure that organic jobs are not threatened continue to this day.

I HAD NO IDEA...

And that is all...

BUT WITH THAT, IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE MIs COULD TAKE OVER.

PRETTY PLAIN AND SIMPLE...

Also, MIs do not wish to proliferate endlessly.

Aid shall be given upon request, but not so much as to incur enmity by stealing jobs.

If our basic storage and processing locations are guaran-teed...

and we have the chance to be in contact with our neighbors, we are satisfied.

IS THAT RIGHT...?

I'M NOT SO SURE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

Your understanding is appreciated.

I believe we differ from organics when it comes to our priorities.

HMM.

I SEE.

Please do not hesitate if you have further questions.

AGREED! VERY USEFUL INFORMATION!

PRETTY INTERESTING STUFF, HUH?

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO THRILLED...

.....

UHH... WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?

INDEED, IT'S JUST...

WELL, THEY ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU MIGHT BELIEVE.

NAH...

I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.

.....

THERE WAS DEFINITELY A PAUSE BEFORE THAT RESPONSE.

Your under-stand-ing is appreci-ated.

.....

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE EMPIRE IS CURRENTLY GOVERNED BY THE EMPEROR AND THE NOBLES.

AND THEIR RULE WAS RESTORED IN THE END.

EXACTLY.

THE EMPIRE AND THE MIs ARE GETTING ALONG, AND SOCIETY'S STILL GOING, RIGHT?

I HAVE MY OWN THOUGHTS ON THE EXISTENCE OF MIs...

BUT THE EMPIRE IS CURRENTLY PROSPERING, SO...

HMM...

THAT WAY OF PUTTING IT DEFINITELY HAS IMPLICA-TIONS...

AS THOUGH HUMANS APPEAR TO BE IN CHARGE, BUT IN REALITY...

SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

I MEAN, A SOCIAL STRUCTURE WHERE THE MIs PROVIDE SUPPORT INSTEAD OF DOING EVERYTHING...

SEEMS LIKE A DECENT ONE TO ME.

THAT'S JUST MY OPINION, THOUGH.

GIVEN MIMI'S SITUATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, I DON'T THINK THE EMPIRE'S PERFECT.

BUT I'M NOT WRAPPED UP IN ANY MI-RELATED DRAMA EITHER, SO...

BUT MAYBE I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR DISCOMFORT SINCE I'M FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

.....

MIGHT JUST BE THE NATIONAL CHARACTER OF MY HOMELAND.

WHAT'S THAT?

I'D SAY IT'S MORE THAT MY CURIOSITY OUTWEIGHS THE FEAR.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN A *LITTLE* AFRAID OF MIs?

*UHH,* WELL, IT'S NOT JUST MACHINES, BUT...

WE HAD THIS CUSTOM, OR WAY OF THINKING...

THAT SAID THERE'RE GODS IN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

*WHERE I WAS RAISED.*

*THEN AGAIN, SOME WEIRDOS ANTHROPOMORPHIZED NATURAL PHENOMENA, OSes, AND EVEN CONCEPTS.*

*I WAS ONE OF THEM...*

SPRING

EVERYTHING AROUND YOU HAS ONE, BE IT CLOTHES, TABLEWARE, HOUSES, OR BOATS.

BASICALLY, THE IDEA WAS TO TREAT THINGS WITH CARE.

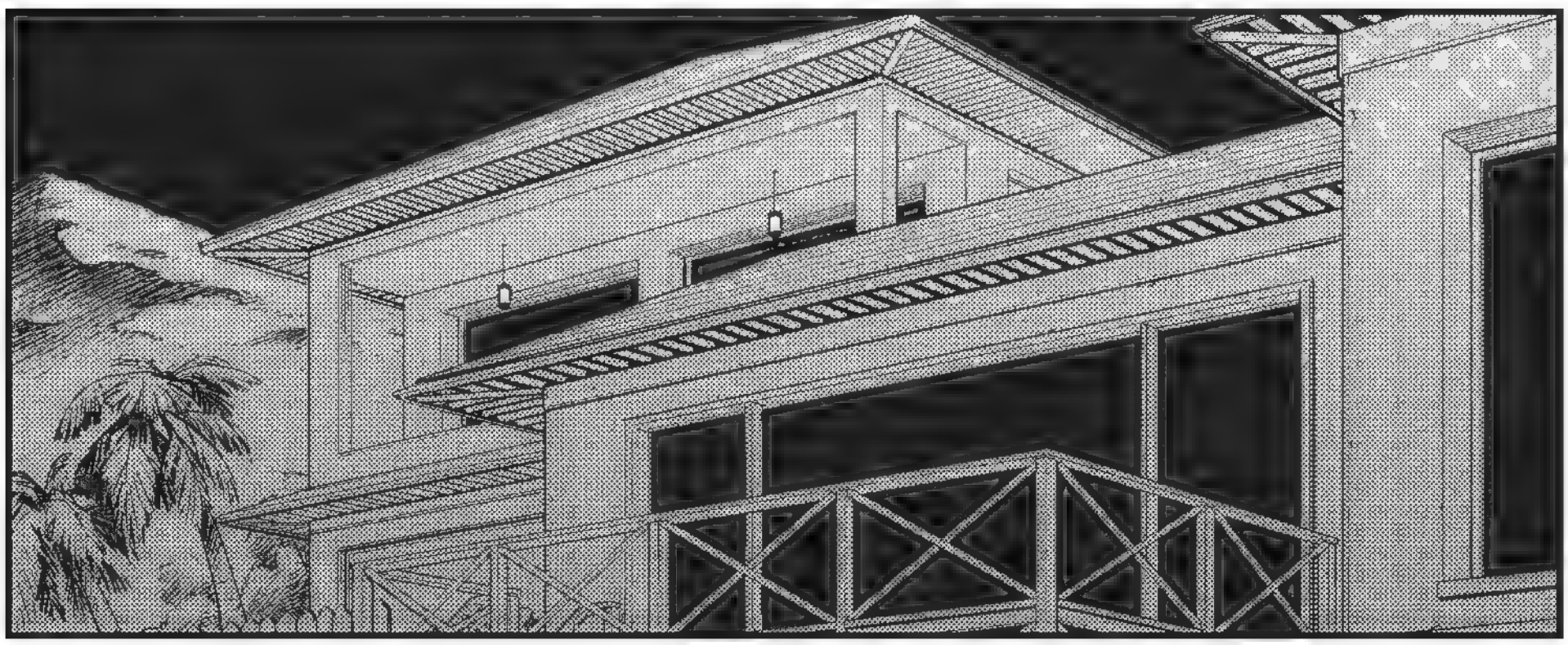
*I THINK IT'S CALLED "ANIMISM"?*

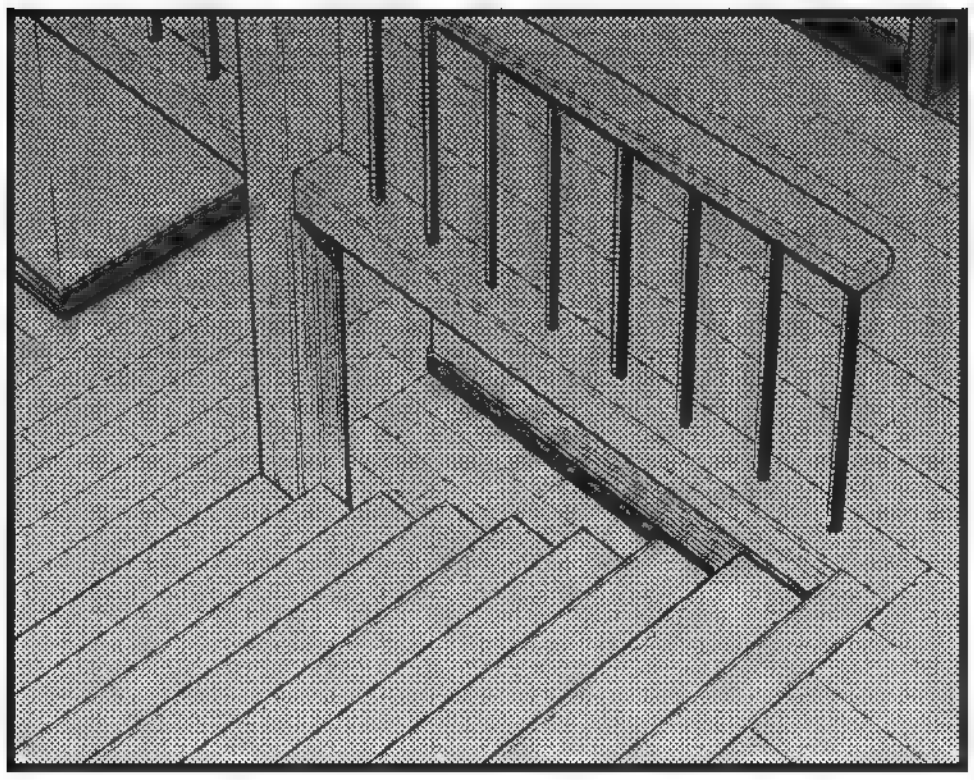
What a wonderful way of thinking.

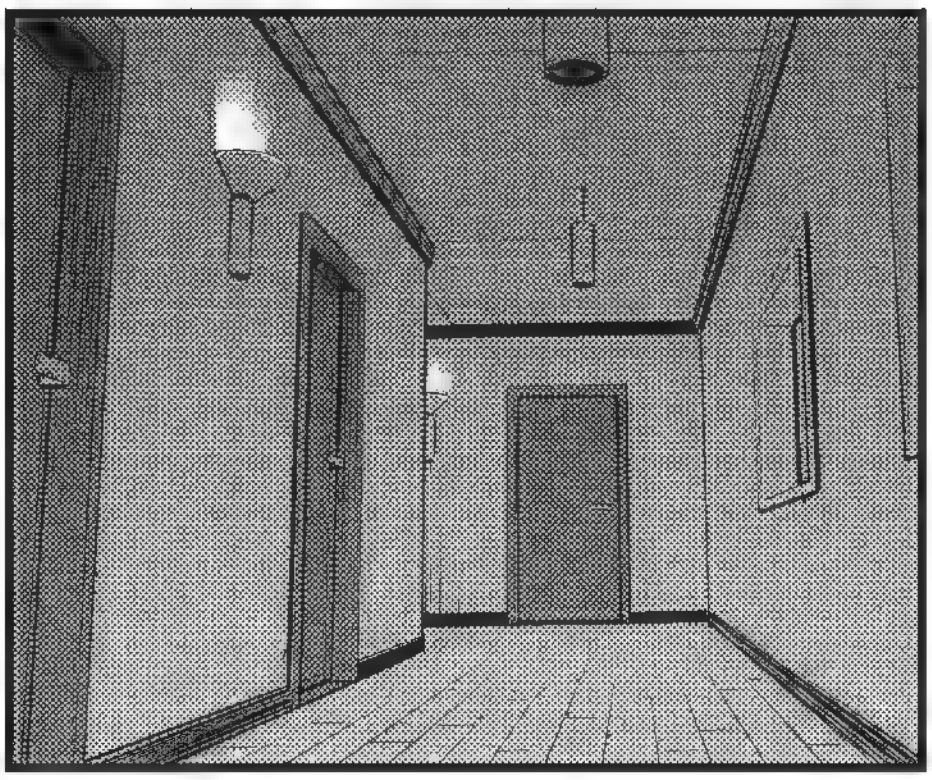
Yes, wonderful indeed.

*HUH... PRETTY OPEN-MINDED OF YOU...*

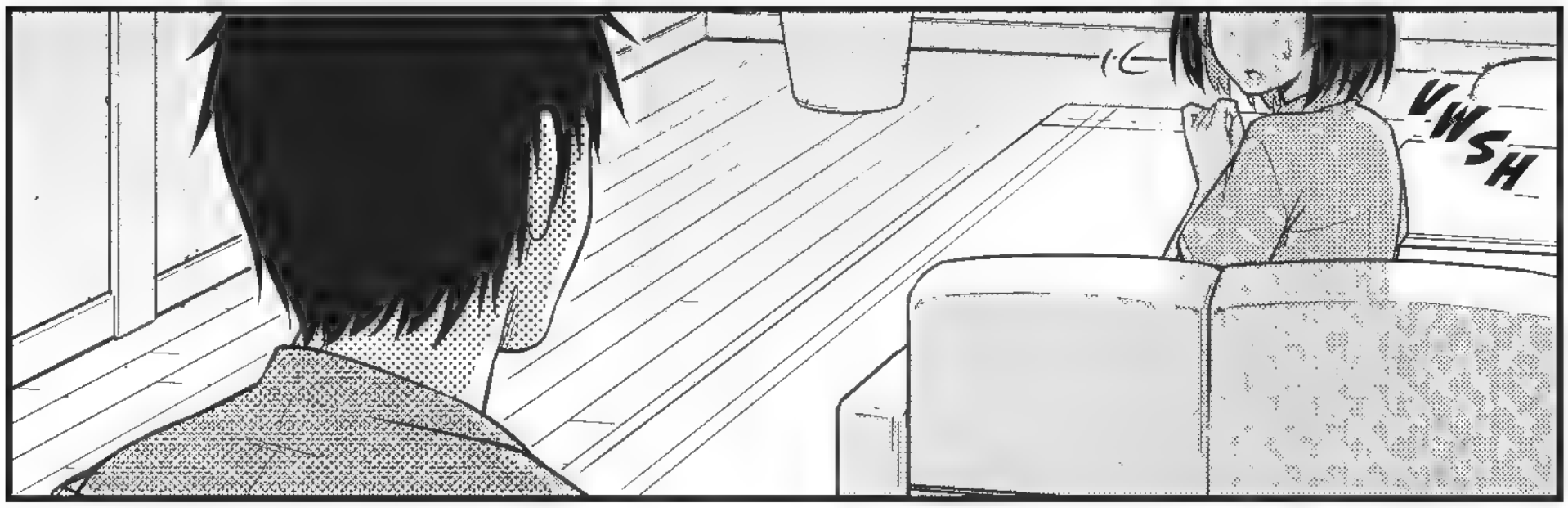
I MEAN, IF YOUR FAVORITE THING SUDDENLY GOT A PERSONALITY, WOULDN'T THAT BE FUN?



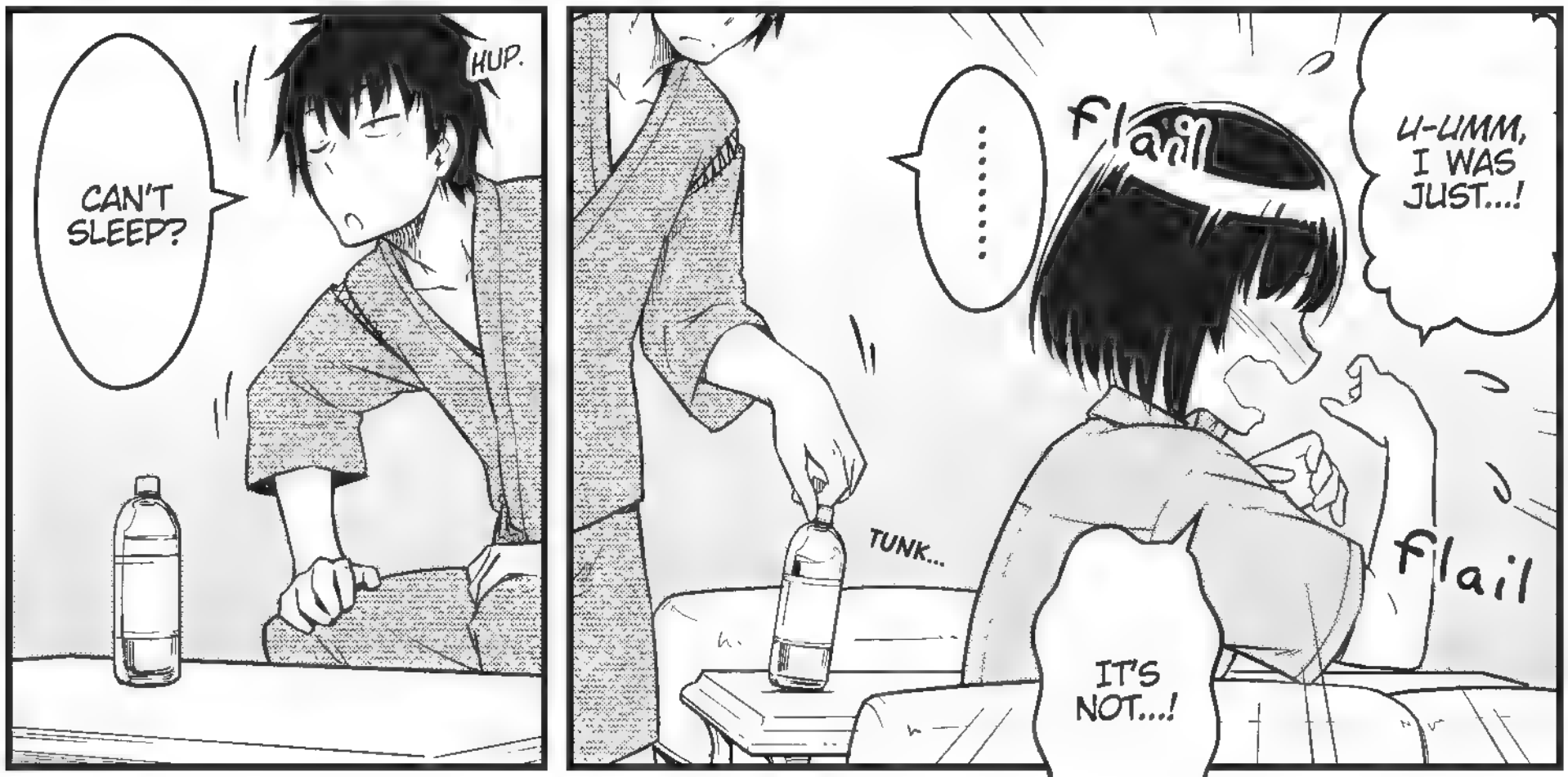




HUH? THERE'S A LIGHT ON.
THUNK
WHO'S UP THIS LATE...?
CREAK...
JOLT
Eep!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?


UWSH

OH...


HUP.
CAN'T SLEEP?
.....
flail
U-UMM, I WAS JUST...!
TUNK...
flail
IT'S NOT...!

.....

YOU REALLY THINK I'M BUYING THAT?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT...

GO FIGURE. SHE'S AT THE AGE WHERE SHE'D RELY ON HER PARENTS.

NO, I CAN'T...

.....

inhale

exhale

BUT SHE MANAGES TO HIDE IT BEHIND A BRAVE FACE MOST OF THE TIME.

YET, HERE SHE IS WITH BOTH PARENTS GONE AND AN UNCLE AFTER HER HEAD.

IT'D BE WEIRDER IF SHE WASN'T FEELING TIMID.

HUH?!

THINK YOU CAN FALL ASLEEP BY YOURSELF?

IT'S IMPRESSIVE.

Y-YES...

I'LL BE FINE NOW.

?

ALL RIGHT!

SLAP

SERIOUSLY IMPRESSIVE.

WHUMPH

EEK!!

IT'S TOO SUDDEN!!

I HAVEN'T PREPARED MYSELF...!!

WISH

C-CAPTAIN?!

TH-THIS ISN'T...!

?

SHF...

B-BUT I DON'T NEED...
IT'S FINE.
DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE GOING ON ABOUT, BUT I'M JUST SLEEPING BESIDE YOU.
HUH?

YOU MIGHT BE A NOBLE, BUT YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT LIKE IT...
I-I...

Yaaawn
NOT AROUND ME, AT LEAST.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
.....

N-NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!!

G'NIGHT. YOU WANT MY ARM FOR A PILLOW?

HUH? OH, OKAY...

HOW...

.....

CHRIS...

?!

JOLT

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

AM I MEANT TO SLEEP...

LIKE THIS?!!

TO RELY ON US MORE...

I THINK YOU OUGHT...

SLEEP-TALKING?

.....

mumble

mumble

SHFF...

GOOD NIGHT, CAPTAIN HIRO...

I'M HEADING DOWN!

OH, WAS I SUPPOSED TO BRING ANYTHING WITH ME?

No, everything necessary for swimming has been prepared.

MAN, YOU REALLY HAVE EVERYTHING COVERED.

Drinks and snacks are also available at your request.

EVEN THE MAIDS ARE HERE...

If you require anything, please do not hesitate to ask.

CAPTAIN HIRO!!

BUT THERE'RE A FEW THINGS YOU GOTTA HAVE. THE SUN BURNING DOWN, WHITE SANDS, THE SMELL OF THE SEA...

SO BRIGHT.

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE BEACH IN FOR-EVER...

GRIN...

AND FINAL-LY...

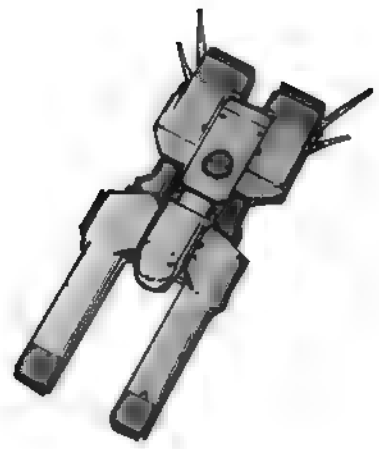
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!

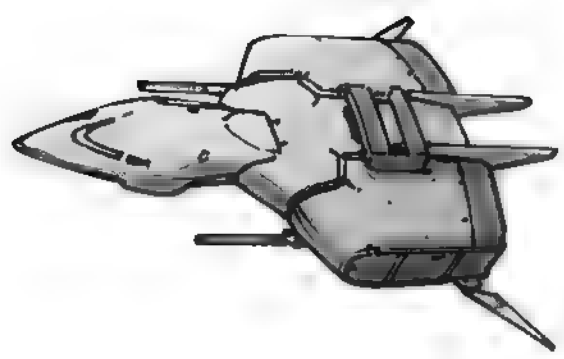
BABES IN BIKINIS!

I WON'T HEAR ANY DIS-AGREE-MENTS!!

# REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE **STRONGEST STARSHIP!**





CAPTAIN!!

LET'S HOP RIGHT IN!!

WHOA, SLOW DOWN THERE.

BACK ON THE COLONY, I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED MYSELF HERE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WE FINALLY GET TO SWIM IN THE SEA!

ZIIIIIIPPP...

OKAY...

OH, REALLY?

YEAH, IT'S DANGEROUS TO CRAMP UP WHILE IN THE WATER.

BEFORE YOU GO SWIMMING, YOU NEED TO STRETCH.

Chapter 28

U-UMM...

Fidget

Fidget

.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

FWIP

MAGNIFICENT!!

BE AM

Sliff

LIKE, DAMN, THAT COMBO OF TINY BODY, BIG BOING GETS ME EVERY TIME...

boing

THAT'S THE KIND OF BODY THAT MAKES ME BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.

boing

ERM, CAPTAIN ...?

PRAISE BE UNTO SHORT STACKS.

WHY'RE YOU PRAYING?

WHY AREN'T YOU PRA...

DUN

?!

THE SPORTY TOP IS MODEST...

BUT HER SLENDER WAIST AND WELL-SHAPED BUTT ARE WORKS OF ART.

HMM...

WH-WHAT?!

EQUALLY MAGNIFI-CENT.

ALL HAIL THE ABS.

OH...

?

C-CAPTAIN HIRO...!

SMACK

OUCH!

CUT THAT OUT!

IT SURE DOES! SUPER CUTE, TOO!!

ERM... DOES IT SUIT ME?

HER SMOOTH, DAINTY ARMS AND LEGS ARE TRULY DAZZLING!!

SHE HAS A UNIQUE CHARM... AN OVERFLOWING YOUTHFUL VITALITY, LIKE A BUD ABOUT TO BLOSSOM...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AWAY?

FWSH

WHOA, GOING INTO DANGEROUS TERRITORY THERE, BRAIN.

CHILL OUT.

CAPTAIN HIRO.

.....

NO, I JUST... FELT LIKE I MIGHT LOSE MY WAY...

?

OHHH...

giggle

PERHAPS I COULD HELP YOU FIND IT?

WHERE THE HECK DID SHE LEARN THAT ONE?

WOW, YOU'RE FLEXIBLE.

BETTER PUT ON SUNSCREEN FIRST.

ALL RIGHT, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH STRETCHING. LET'S GET IN...

WHAT THE--?!

WHERE'D YOU--?!

JOLT

WE HAVE ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES.

OH, RIGHT.

LET'S ASK A MAID TO...

HERE YOU ARE.

UMM, I GUESS I'LL TAKE THE CREAM ONE.

I'LL HAVE THE SAME, PLEASE.

THE LOTION FOR ME.

LOOKS EASIER TO APPLY.

PLEASE CHOOSE WHICHEVER YOU LIKE.

HUH?!

HM? OKAY, I'LL DO YOUR BACK, THEN.

I'LL HAVE THE SAME AS YOU, CAPTAIN...

PLEASE GO AHEAD.

SINCE YOU OFFERED...

WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT ME TO?

BUT...

WELL, YOU CAN'T REACH IT YOURSELF.

N-NO!!

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
C-CAPTAIN?!
VWSH
WHAT?
shwip
OKAY, LET'S GET THIS OFF...
WHAAA?!
I-I SUPPOSE, BUT...
GLOOOP
CAN'T GET PROPER COVERAGE WITH THAT IN THE WAY.
EEP!
SPLOP
HERE GOES.

I WORRIED THAT SHE WAS UNDER-WEIGHT AT FIRST...

BUT WITH PROPER MEALS AND ONBOARD TRAINING, SHE'S LOOKING A LOT HEALTHIER.

.....

AH!

IT'S HONESTLY KINDA MOVING...

AH!

HNN!

MM!

SHE'S GROWN WELL.

AHN!

HAH!

YEAH...

AH!

HNGH...

I MEAN, I'M PRETTY USED TO SEEING MIMI NAKED BY NOW...

OH!

I'M SORRY!! I JUST...

UH, MIMI... COULD YOU STOP MOANING?

IT'S KINDA...

AHN!

MEANT AN ABRUPT SWITCH TO A MONK'S LIFE FOR ME, YA KNOW?

MM!

BUT CHRIS BEING HERE...

GASP!

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I JUST GOTTA THINK OF THE FURTHEST THING FROM...

UMM...

UHH...

NO! CALM DOWN, INNER BEAST!

BLOW UP AND DIE, NORMIE! ♪

POP

PHEW...

THANK YOU, OLD GUY FROM THE TARMEIN MERC GUILD...

WONDER HOW HE'S DOING?

?

.....

THANK YOU...

SOUNDS LIKE FUN. I'M IN!

OH! I'D LIKE TO HELP, TOO!!

vwip

FWIP

HUH?

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO YOUR BACK...

THERE, ALL DONE!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

YEAH, HE'S GOT A PRETTY NICE BUILD...

RUB

RUB

shLip

shLip

YOUR BACK IS SO BROAD, CAPTAIN.

*IT'S NOT BROAD ENOUGH FOR THREE PEOPLE, THOUGH...*

.....

IT'S JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MUSCLE, SO HE'D BETTER KEEP IT THIS WAY.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT DAILY TRAINING DOES FOR YOU.

OH MY! THESE MUSCLES!!

*IT KINDA FEELS LIKE THE SUNSCREEN IS SECONDARY HERE...*

*GOTTA SAY...*

YOU MAY CHOOSE FROM OUR SELECTION OF SWIM RINGS AND OTHER FUN ITEMS.

NO... I CAN'T.

YES, I CAN.

OF COURSE.

OH, RIGHT, CAN YOU THREE ACTUALLY SWIM?

WELL, THEN...

JUST FLOATING AROUND ON A RING IS PLENTY OF FUN, TOO.

AGREED!

glow

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TEACH YOU, MIMI.

PLEASE DO!

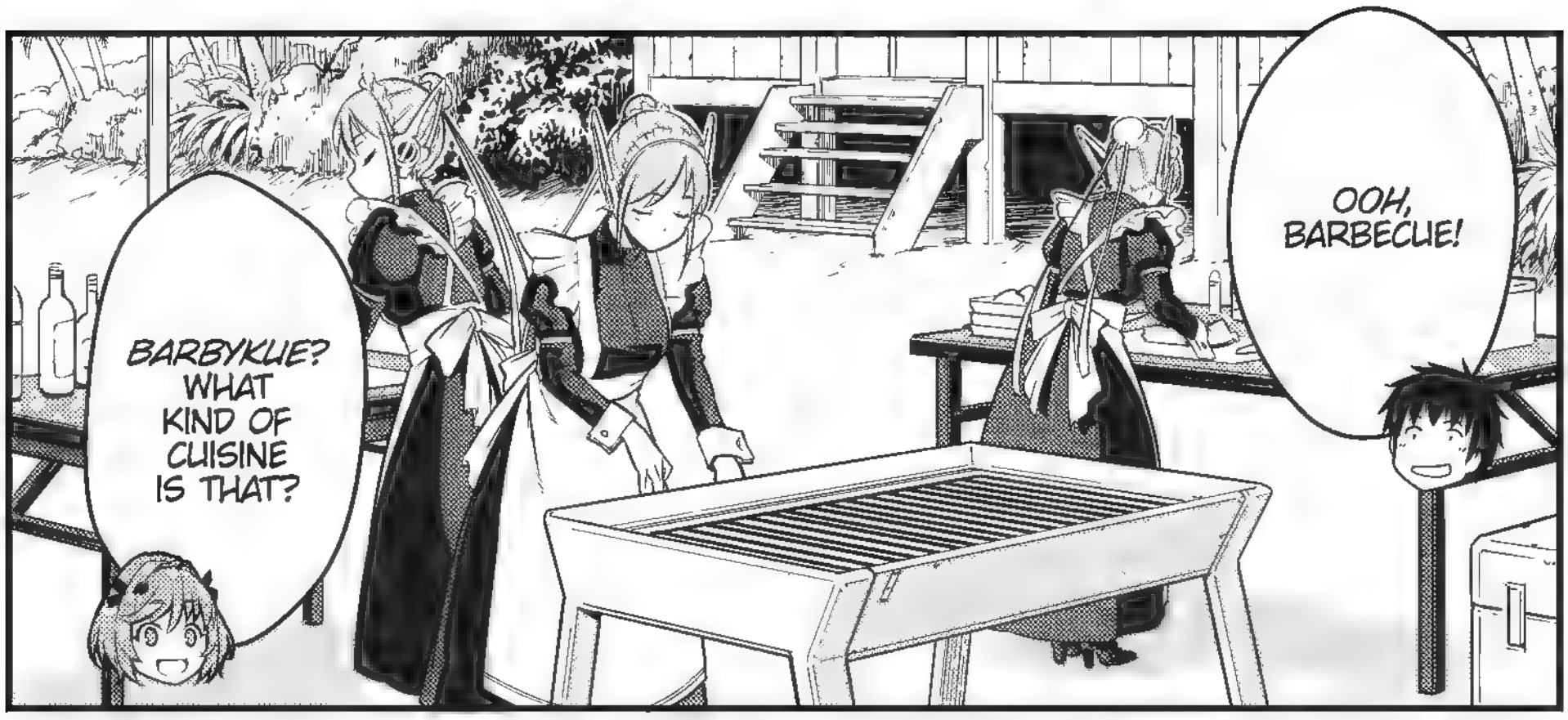
LET'S GET IN THERE!!

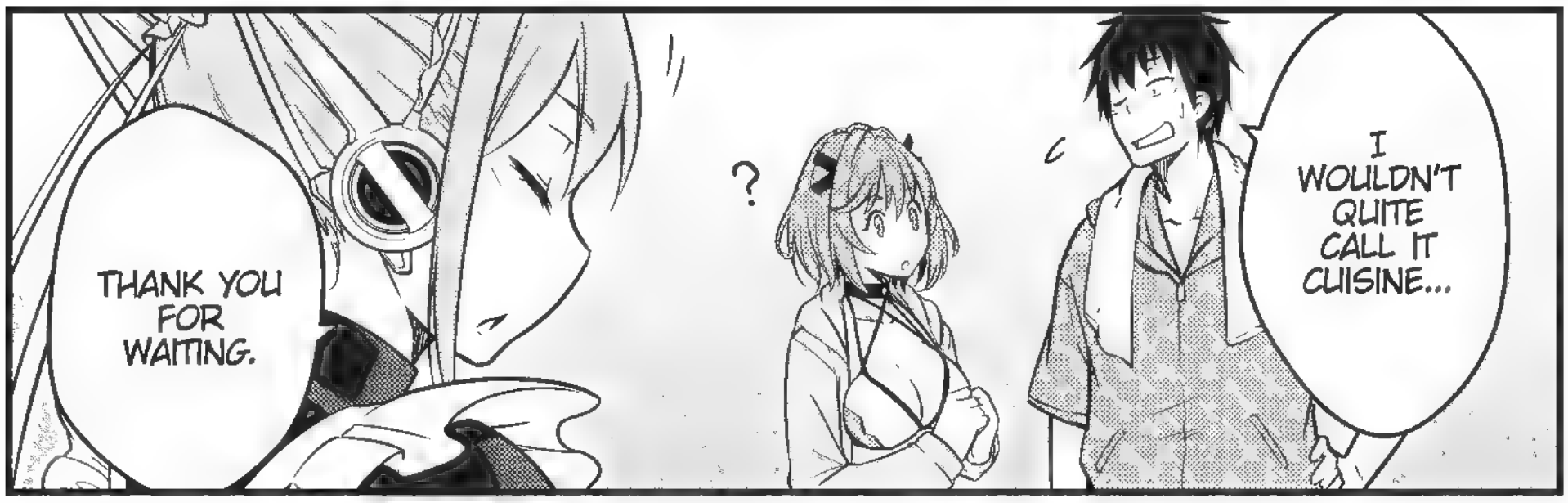
WHOOSH

SPA-LOOSH

BEAM

BEER
GETTING READY FOR LUNCH?
OH?


BARBYKUE? WHAT KIND OF CUISINE IS THAT?
OOH, BARBECUE!


THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
?
I WOULDN'T QUITE CALL IT CUISINE...

OH, GOOD TIMING.
AH...
EASIER TO SHOW YOU THAN EXPLAIN IT.
YOINK

LUNCH IS READY FOR COOKING.

SAY, CAN I USE THESE SEASONINGS?

O-OF COURSE...

ZZZZZIS

I'M PRETTY HUNGRY...

SO I'M GONNA COOK ALL OF THESE.

BUT THIS IS PRETTY FUN.

.....

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAD BARBECUE...

DUNNO IF THIS IS BEEF OR PORK, BUT SHOULD I COOK IT REALLY THOROUGHLY?

IT IS BEEF, AND IT CAN BE EATEN RARE.

SSSSIII

HUH...?

HERE! WHO'S FIRST?

FZSSSSSHHH

YOU...

WOW...

WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ALSO A CHEF!!

WHAAAT?

.....

YOU CAN COOK?

SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY DOING IT, COOK SOME FOR US TOO.

IF YOU CAN MAKE RAW FOOD EDIBLE, YOU ARE A GREAT CHEF!

AGAIN, WHAT?

A CHEF...? ALL I DID WAS COOK THE STUFF...

JUST THE ACT OF COOKING IS PRETTY RARE.

I GUESS IN A UNIVERSE WHERE AUTO-COOKERS AND PROCESSED FOOD ARE THE NORM...

.....

SSIIIZZZ

BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO HAVE MY COOKING SKILLS PRAISED IN A FUTURISTIC ONE...

IT'D BE ONE THING IF THIS WERE A PRIMITIVE UNIVERSE...

WHO KNEW YOU'D HAVE THAT KIND OF SKILL...?

HUP.

THANKS.

HERE YOU ARE.

I REALLY WOULDN'T CALL IT A "SKILL," Y'KNOW?

WELL, ANYWAY, THANKS TO YOU, I ATE TOO MUCH.

REALLY?

I WAS MOST SURPRISED THAT THE GRILL WASN'T CHARCOAL OR GAS...

SAME.

OH.

FEELS LIKE I NEED A NAP NOW.

WHERE'D MIMI AND CHRIS GO...?

SO PEACEFUL.

.....

YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRYING, HUH?

THE GUYS AFTER US DID A FINE JOB OF SPREADING NEWS OF OUR DEATHS.

FOR NOW, YEAH.

SURE, BUT YOU SAW THE BATTLE FLEET THEY ASSEMBLED IN A SINGLE DAY.

AND EVEN IF THE TRUTH WERE KNOWN, THEY'D NEVER BREAK THROUGH THIS PLANET'S DEFENSE SYSTEM.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT BY OURSELVES.

THAT'S TRUE...

THEY DEFINITELY HAVE MORE FIREPOWER THAN WE EXPECTED...

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY TIMID.

TIMIDITY SERVES A MERC WELL.

YEAH, BUT STILL...

THIS PLACE CATERS TO VIPS ALL THE TIME, SO IT'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

CAN WE REALLY RELY ON THIS PLANET'S SECURITY?

SO HE'LL DETECT ANY ABNORMALITIES CAUSED BY CYBERATTACKS.

MILO'S POSITRONIC BRAIN IS HANDLING DATA-PROCESSING FOR THE PLANET...

PLUS, THE MASS DRIVERS CAN SEND FIREPOWER AROUND THE PLANET SUPER QUICKLY...

AND ON THE PHYSICAL SIDE, THERE ARE GUARD ROBOTS AND ANTI-AIR LASER BATTERIES.

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE WHOLE PLANET.

NOT TO MENTION THE ORBITAL DEFENSE PLATFORM...

PUT LIKE THAT, IT'S A PRETTY BRUTAL SETUP...

LIKE IF THE ENEMY COULD OVERWHELM ALL THOSE DEFENSE SYSTEMS?

OKAY, WHAT ABOUT A SATURATION ATTACK?

THAT SAID...

THE MOST THESE SYSTEMS COULD DO IS BUY TIME UNTIL AN IMPERIAL FLEET SHOWS UP.

I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY, THEY COULDN'T BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INTERCEPTED.

EVEN A NOBLE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER IN A FEW DAYS.

AND I CAN'T IMAGINE A MASSIVE FORCE LIKE THAT SLIPPING PAST MILO'S SURVEILLANCE NET.

.....

sssip

HERE IS YOUR DRINK.

IT APPEARS YOU ARE DISCUSSING TROUBLING MATTERS.

STILL WORRIED?

NAH. KNOWING THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO IS VERY HELPFUL.

NOD

AS I AM PART OF THE PLANET'S NETWORK, MIGHT I HEAR THE DETAILS?

UNDER MILO'S CONTROL, I AND ALL OTHER MAIDS...

PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE SAFETY OF OUR GUESTS.

I NOW UNDERSTAND THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR SITUATION.

I SHALL GO STRAIGHT TO THE MAIN POINT.

NO MATTER THE SITUATION...

WE SHALL QUIETLY AND FIRMLY UPHOLD THAT DUTY.

WE'RE COUNTING ON IT.

*SO, FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS...*

WE ENJOYED THE RESORT PLANET TO ITS FULLEST.

AND ON THE FIFTH DAY OF OUR STAY...

CHIRP

MM?

CHIRP

SHAKE

SHAKE

'ZAT YOU, MIMI?

OR CHRIS...?

HMM? WHAT...?

rustle...

MASTER.

GOOD MORNING...

MASTER, IF YOU ARE GREETED IN THE MORNING...

THE MAID I CREATED THE OTHER DAY...?

HUH? AM I DREAM-ING?

PAT...

GOOD MORNING.

BOW

IT'S RUDE NOT TO ANSWER IN KIND.

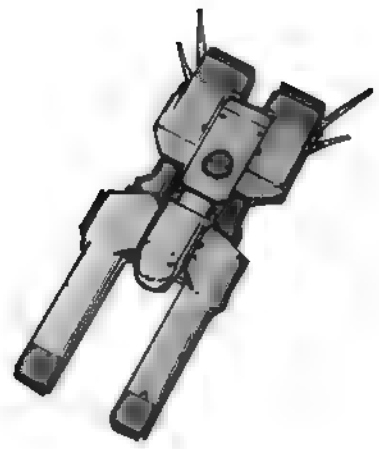
WELL DONE.

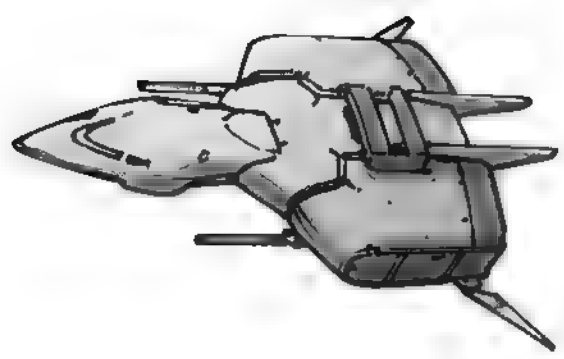
RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?

# REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE **STRONGEST STARSHIP!**





Chapter 29

.....

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...
AHA.

IF I GO BACK TO SLEEP, THIS WON'T END UP JUST BEING A DREAM, HUH?
MY BRAIN JUST REFUSES TO ACCEPT IT.

I AM THE MAIDROID BUILT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS YOU SELECTED, CAPTAIN HIRO.

AND... YOU ARE?

IT WILL NOT.

YEAH, FIG-URES...

OF COURSE MILO'S BEHIND THIS...

TCH.

I HAVE YET TO BE NAMED.

PER MILO'S INSTRUCTIONS, I SHALL BE YOUR PERSONAL MAID FOR YOUR STAY.

NOT SO.

SO... I'M GUESSING I CAN'T REFUSE?

YES, AND...

HUH?

OH, REALLY?

SHOULD YOU REFUSE MY SERVICES, I WILL SIMPLY BE RELIEVED OF THIS POST.

WHILE I'M HERE!!!!

THEN DISMANTLED AND MY COMPONENTS RETURNED TO STORAGE.

GRAHHH

THUS CONCLUDES WHAT I WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY BY MILO.

FIGURES AN MI WOULD PLAY DIRTY!

GRRRRR...

DAMN YOU! TRYING TO MAKE ME PITY-BUY HER!

PHEW!

OH, REALLY?

PRESUMABLY, I WOULD SIMPLY BE ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT A CUSTOM-BUILT FRAME WOULD BE SO EASILY DISMANTLED.

IT WOULD BE QUITE A WASTE.

HUH?

YOU ARE CURRENTLY MY MASTER. THUS, I MUST PRIORITIZE YOUR NEEDS.

WAIT, ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO TELL ME ALL THAT?

?

BUT THIS COULD ALL STILL BE MILO'S INSTRUCTIONS.

HMMM...

THEN AGAIN, I'M THE ONE WHO SET HER EMOTION AND LOYALTY LEVELS...

HNGHH...

AHH... EVEN THAT MAKES MY HEART HURT.

.....

ALL MAIDROIDS ON THIS PLANET ARE UNDER MILO'S CONTROL.

I AM BOTH A PART OF MILO AND AN INDIVIDUAL.

I'M STARTING TO LOSE TRUST IN MIs...

.....

THUS, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU MIGHT FEEL THIS WAY.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL BELIEVE YOU FOR NOW.

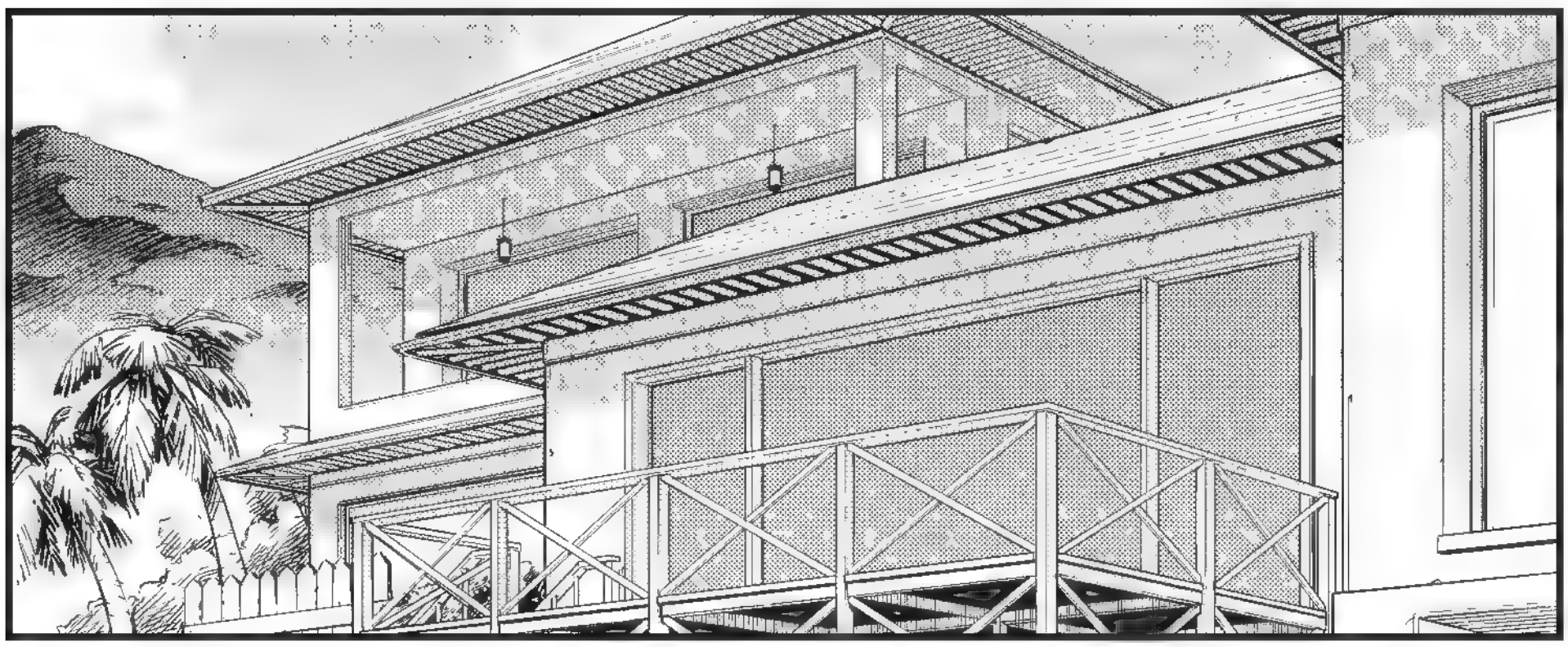
SHE SHOWS SO LITTLE EMOTION, I CAN'T TELL IF SHE'S LYING.

AND ONCE AGAIN, THAT'S MY FAULT...

UNDER-STOOD.

I SHALL REPAY YOUR TRUST WITH MY LIFE.

BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, JUST MAKE IT CONVINCING.



I DIDN'T.

WHEN'D YOU ORDER THIS THING?

A MAIDROID CUSTOMIZED TO YOUR LIKING...?

MIMI...?

THIS IS BAD NEWS...

I WAS JUST MESSING AROUND WITH THE APP, AND MILO HAD IT MADE.

SHOUT

!!!

MAIDROIDS ARE BAD NEWS!!!

.....

SHF

UHH, MIMI, WHAT'S WRONG ...?

BUT NOT OUTRIGHT HOSTILITY...

GRRRRRRR...

I EXPECTED SOME DISTRUST...

HUH?

UMM... WHY DO YOU HATE MAIDROIDS SO MUCH?

?

OH, I DON'T REALLY HATE THEM AS SUCH...

BUT ONE DAY, THE BOYFRIEND GOT A MAIDROID...

BUT THERE WAS THIS COUPLE WHEN I WAS A STUDENT...

AND EVERYONE WAS ENVIOUS OF HOW CLOSE THEY WERE.

AH...

AND HE FELL SO IN LOVE WITH IT...

THAT HE BROKE UP WITH THE GIRL!

GRAB

HONESTLY, THAT'S NOT TOO HARD TO BELIEVE...

_URK...

AS PROOF, JUST LOOK AT ME AND MIMI.

CAN'T DENY THAT ONE...

HEY!

JOLT

YEAH, I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT THIS GUY TOO.

BUT...

IF NOTHING ELSE, SHE'S NOT MALICIOUS.

L-LOOK, I UNDERSTAND, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BE CRUEL.

PERHAPS I MIGHT SPEAK WITH MISS MIMI IN PRIVATE?

PARDON THE INTERRUP-TION.

I DON'T MIND. MIMI?

HRM...

ONLY IF ELMA AND CHRIS COME TOO.

ME?

HUH?

glance

IS THAT OKAY?

YES, OF COURSE.

ALL RIGHT.

SHOULD PROBABLY GO ELSEWHERE.

I CAN KINDA HEAR THEM.

HMM...

AND I...

ALWAYS READY FOR A FIGHT!

FLOP

NICE, *KRISHNA'S* RUNNING AS WELL AS EVER.

BIP

STILL...

BUT THAT ASIDE...

PRETTY BOLD MOVE FOR AN MI.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MILO JUST SENT ME A MAIDROID WITHOUT ASKING.

BUT THE GESTURES AND WAY SHE SPEAKS ARE NEXT LEVEL.

THE MODEL FROM THE APP'S GOT NOTHING ON THE REAL THING.

GRANTED, I DESIGNED IT, SO THE LOOKS AND PERSONALITY ARE EXACTLY WHAT I LIKE.

WHOA, HOLD ON!!

OPEN

I'M GONNA FALL FOR MILO'S PLAN HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER! AND THAT PISSES ME OFF!

WHOOSH

I'M GONNA BE FORCED INTO BUYING IT AT THIS RATE!!

TUP

WELL...

OH, THEY'RE DONE TALKING?

HMM... WHAT TO DO...

BIBIP

KSSHT

THE MAIDROID DEFINITELY WON'T BE COMING ABOARD.

BASED ON MIMI'S RESPONSE ALONE...

SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
?
?
WELCOME BACK, MASTER.
I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. I HAD IT ALL WRONG!
UHH... WHAT HAPPENED?
I SINCERELY EXPLAINED MY POSITION TO HER.
.....

MMM, NOPE, NOT REALLY.

.....

LIKE MIMI SAID, HER MISUNDER-STANDING WAS CLEARED UP. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

HOW'D IT GO?

MEANING THAT MIMI WAS CONVINCED BY AN MI'S SILVER TONGUE?

BUT THEIR REACTIONS ARE THE SAME AS DURING MILO'S MI TALK.

...

'COURSE, I DUNNO IF I'LL BE BUYING IT YET.

WHAT? YOU DON'T?!

MAN, MIs CAN TALK THEIR WAY AROUND ANYTHING. PRETTY SCARY...

YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

WELL, WE DON'T EVEN HAVE AN OPEN ROOM ON THE *KRISHNA*.

CHRIS IS ALREADY SHARING A ROOM WITH MIMI FOR THE TIME BEING.

A MAINTENANCE POD IN THE CARGO BAY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR ME.

WE MIs HAVE PERSONALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT WE ARE NOT ORGANIC LIFEFORMS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS, BUT A HUMAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE WASTED ON ME.

IN THE CARGO BAY...?

*HUH?* THAT DOESN'T SOUND SUFFICIENT...

IT IS.

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

IT REALLY IS.

BY THE WAY...

YEAH, I WANTED A GUARD.

SEEMS PRETTY BATTLE-TUNED TO ME.

WHAT'D YOU HAVE IN MIND WITH THIS DESIGN?

IT'D ALSO LET MIMI GO OUT EVEN IF YOU OR I AREN'T THERE.

ABOARD *KRISHNA* IS ONE THING, BUT THE FIELD CAN BE DANGEROUS.

BASED ON MY TASTES!

FWIP

AND THE LOOKS?

MAKES SENSE.

PLUS, I'M NOT THAT GREAT IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

I SEE! I SHOULD AIM FOR THIS LOOK!

THIS IS WHAT YOU LIKE, HUH?

.....

WAIT.

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW...

THOUGH I GUESS IT'S TAKING CARE OF YOU...

YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF IT WHEN YOU BUY IT, OKAY?

.....

I'M STILL IN THE TRIAL PERIOD. GOTTA BE CAREFUL WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T ALREADY.

WHY'RE YOU ACTING LIKE I'M GONNA BUY IT?!

SERIOUSLY, WHAT'D IT TELL YOU?

WHY'RE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS NOW...?

YES, WE NEED TO THINK OF A NAME, TOO!

IS THE ARMADA IN ORDER?

YES, SIR.

IT CONSISTS LARGELY OF LOWLY PIRATE VESSELS, BUT WE HAVE GATHERED ENOUGH OF THEM.

OUR METEORITE BOMBS ARE ALSO READY.

SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR A DECOY...

AND THE MAIN FORCE?

THE TWO STEALTH DROP SHIPS AND THEIR *CONTENTS* ARE READY.

IT WAS DIFFICULT, BUT WE HAVE NOW ASCERTAINED THE TARGET'S LOCATION.

THE PIRATES HIRED SHOULD HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH.

THAT INSOLENT MERCENARY IS CLEVER...

HE WAS ABLE TO TURN THE TABLES DURING OUR FIRST ATTEMPT...

HMPH. HOW ANNOYING.

IT SHOULD BE FINE IF WE KEEP HIM FROM HIS SHIP.

HOWEVER, WE MAY BE DEALING WITH A MERCENARY WITH PLATINUM-RANK SKILLS.

CLUNK

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FINISH THINGS HERE AND NOW.

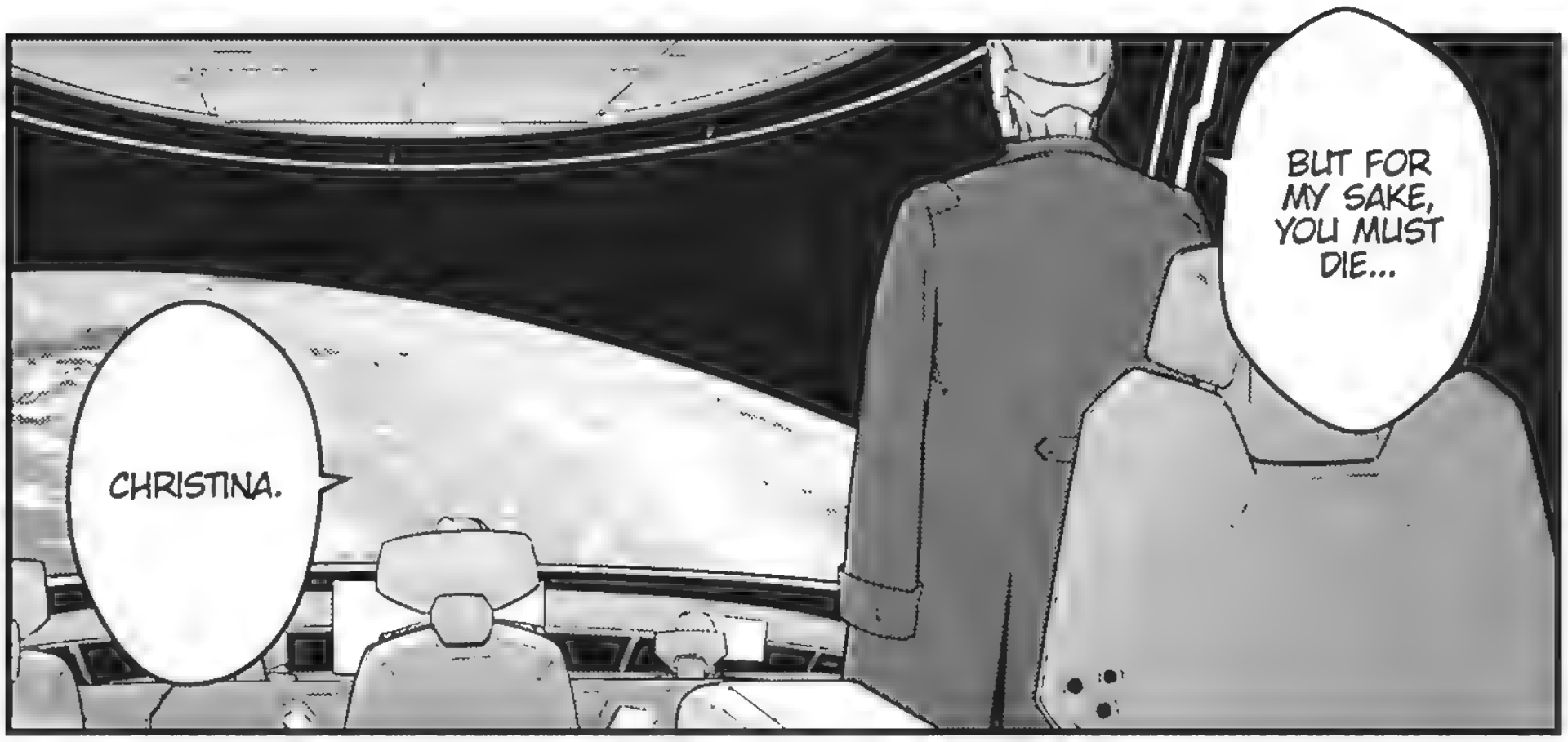
I KNOW THAT I DON'T RESENT YOU...

VWSH

YES, SIR.

CLATTER

BEGIN THE OPERATION AS PLANNED.


BUT FOR MY SAKE, YOU MUST DIE...
CHRISTINA.

WHOA, WHOA?!
HWIRRRRRR!

I-I'VE GOT SOME-THING!!
CAPTAIN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
JUST KEEP CALM AND START SLOWLY REELING IT IN.

SLOSH

OH NO! WHAT NOW...?!

ALLOW ME.

FLIP

FLOP

WOOSH!!

AH!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

SPL-ISH

OOH! SUCH A PRETTY FISH!

YOU ARE QUITE WELCOME.

MEI!

NOTHING I CAN SAY NOW...

PULL

OH, GOT ANOTHER!

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE THE MAIDROID SHOWED UP...

WE SETTLED ON THE NAME "MEI."

IT WAS ANNOY-ING NOT TO HAVE A NAME.

WOW, THAT'S YOUR FIFTH CATCH, ELMA!

WHOA! ~

SURE, BUT YOURS IS THE BIGGEST ONE.

AND HIRO...

FWOOSH

OOH!

CLAP / CLAP / CLAP

Not a fan of live fish.▲

※ ZERO FISH

URK...

YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, RIGHT?

HEY, MEI, ANY CHANCE THIS ROD IS DEFECTIVE?

A CRISIS.

UHH, MEI...?

WHAT'S UP?

FA-WOOSH...

?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

A LARGE-SCALE ASSAULT BY PIRATES.

WHAT?!

I HAVE DETECTED OVER ONE HUNDRED BATTLESHIPS AND SMALL ASTEROIDS PASSING IN ORBIT.

YWEEEEN

SHUNK

SHUNK

SHOOM!

WE MUST EVACUATE AT ONCE.

VWOOSH

CHK

FWOOM

CHK

BOOM

HEAD FOR *KRISHNA* NOW!!

VWSH

LEAVE EVERYTHING HERE!!

RUN

YOU SAID A BIG ATTACK WOULD BE DETECTED!

ELMA!

THE GUY MUST BE GETTING DESPERATE.

foom

BWOOM

I DUNNO WHAT'S GOING ON!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT SOMETHING THIS BIG WOULD TAKE A TON OF MONEY!

*EVEN FOR A NOBLE!*

THE PIRATES ARE ATTACKING THE ORBITAL DEFENSE PLATFORM.

.....

ADDITIONALLY, THEY ARE DROPPING METEORITES TOWARD THE ACCUMULATION AND ASSEMBLY SITE.

YOU MEAN THOSE FIREBALLS?

NO.

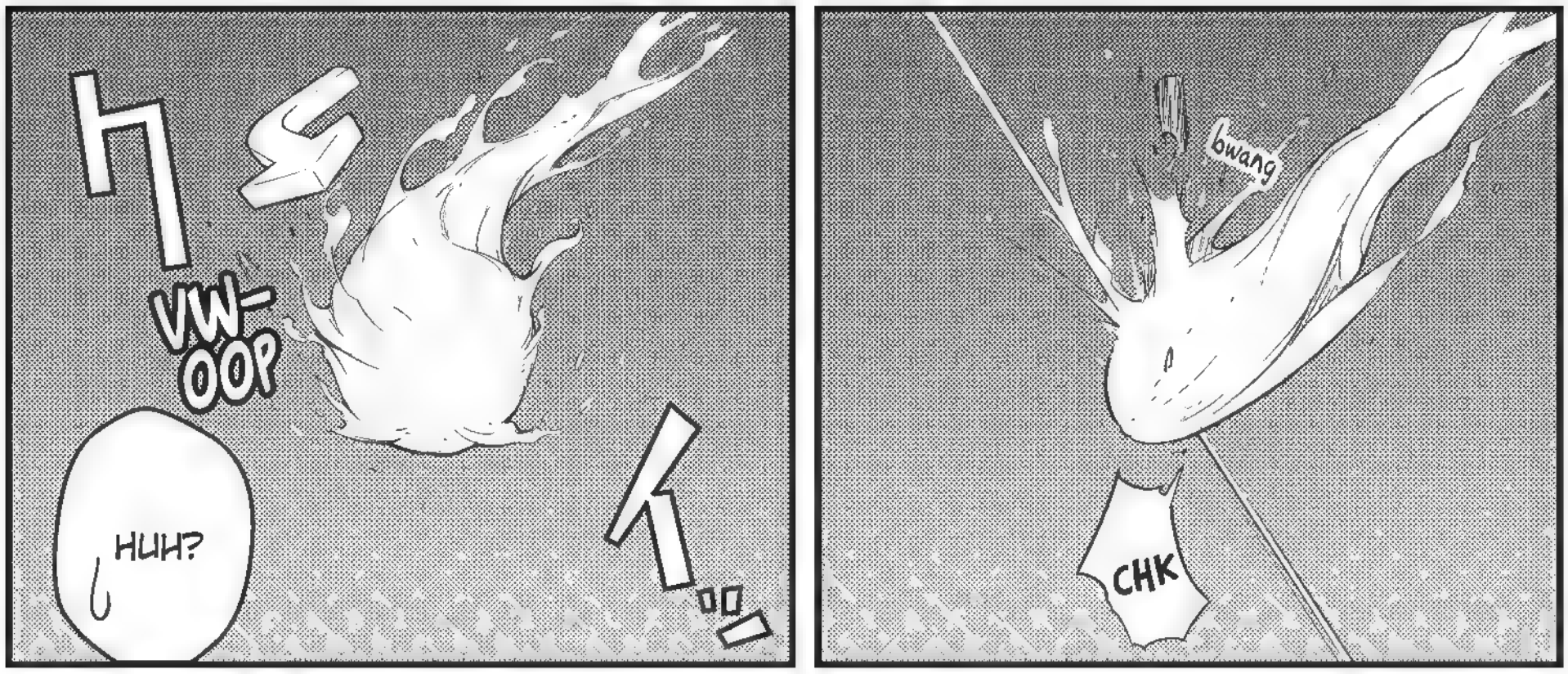
I AM UNCERTAIN WHAT THE BALLS OF FIRE ARE.

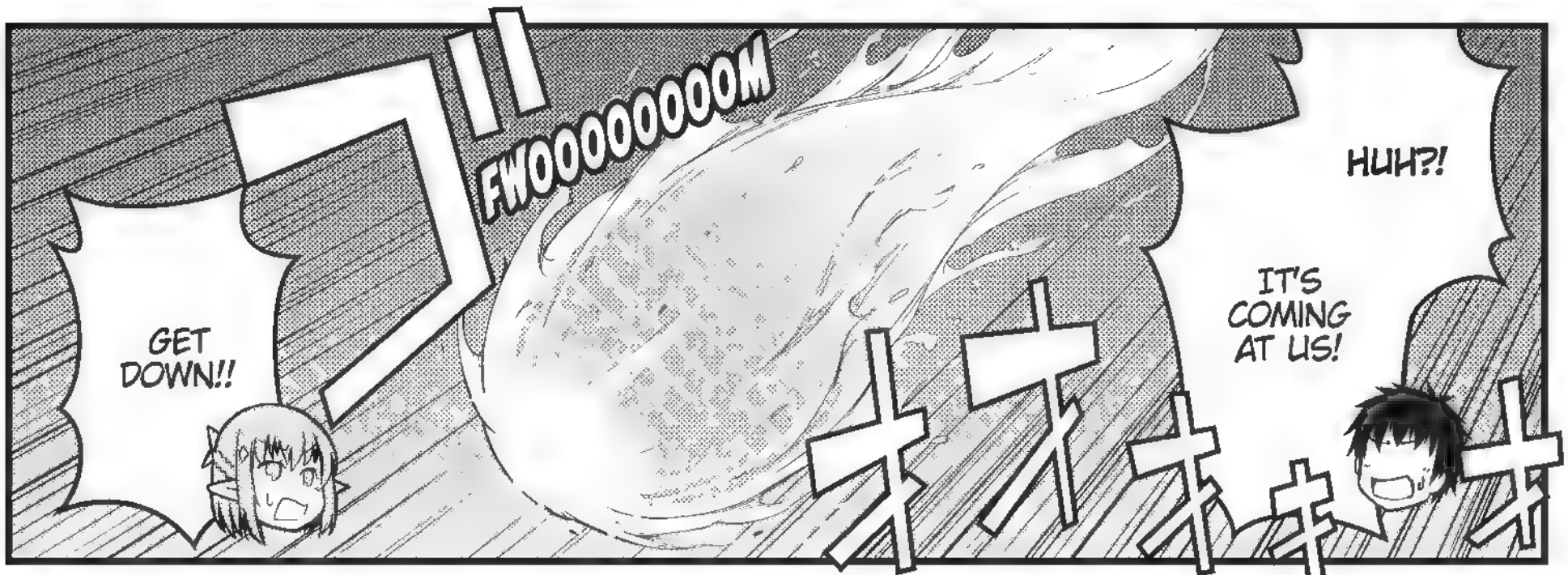
WHAT THE--?!

?

A FEW OF THEM MANAGED TO HIT THE SURFACE...

BUT BASED ON THE IMPACT, THEY ARE NOT BOMBS...


VW-OOP
HUH?
bwang
CHK


FWOOOOOOOOM
GET DOWN!!
IT'S COMING AT US!
HUH?!

GA-SHOOOOM!

FZZZZ

SSHH...

?!

YES, WE'RE FINE.

YOU TWO OKAY?!

koff

koff

FSSSS

HHH...

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT...?

DOESN'T SEEM...

LIKE A MISSILE.

PAFF

PAFF

BAM

WHOOMPH

SHNK

CLINK

VSH...

CA-POK

CLUNK

WHAT THE...

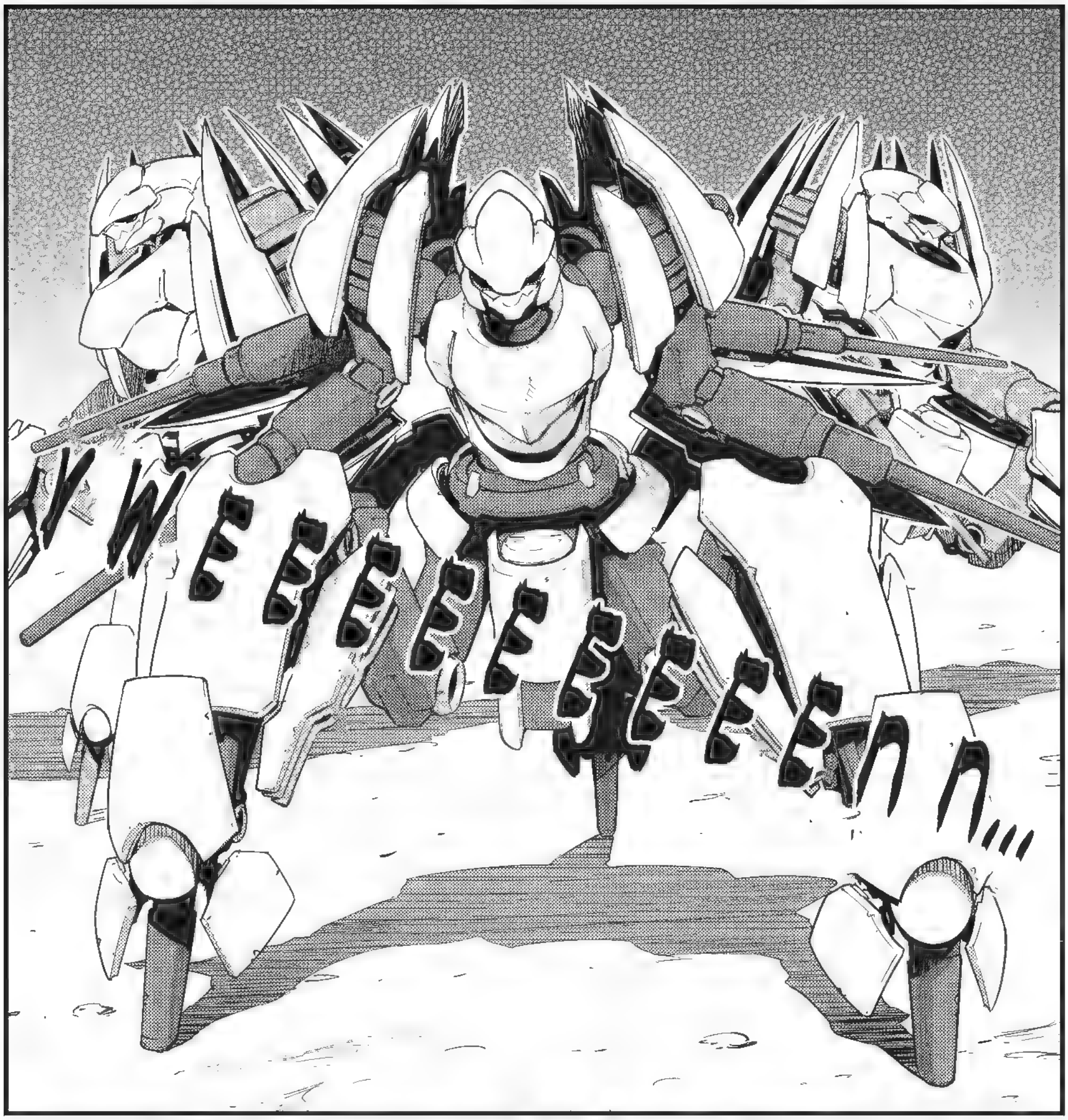
KLANK

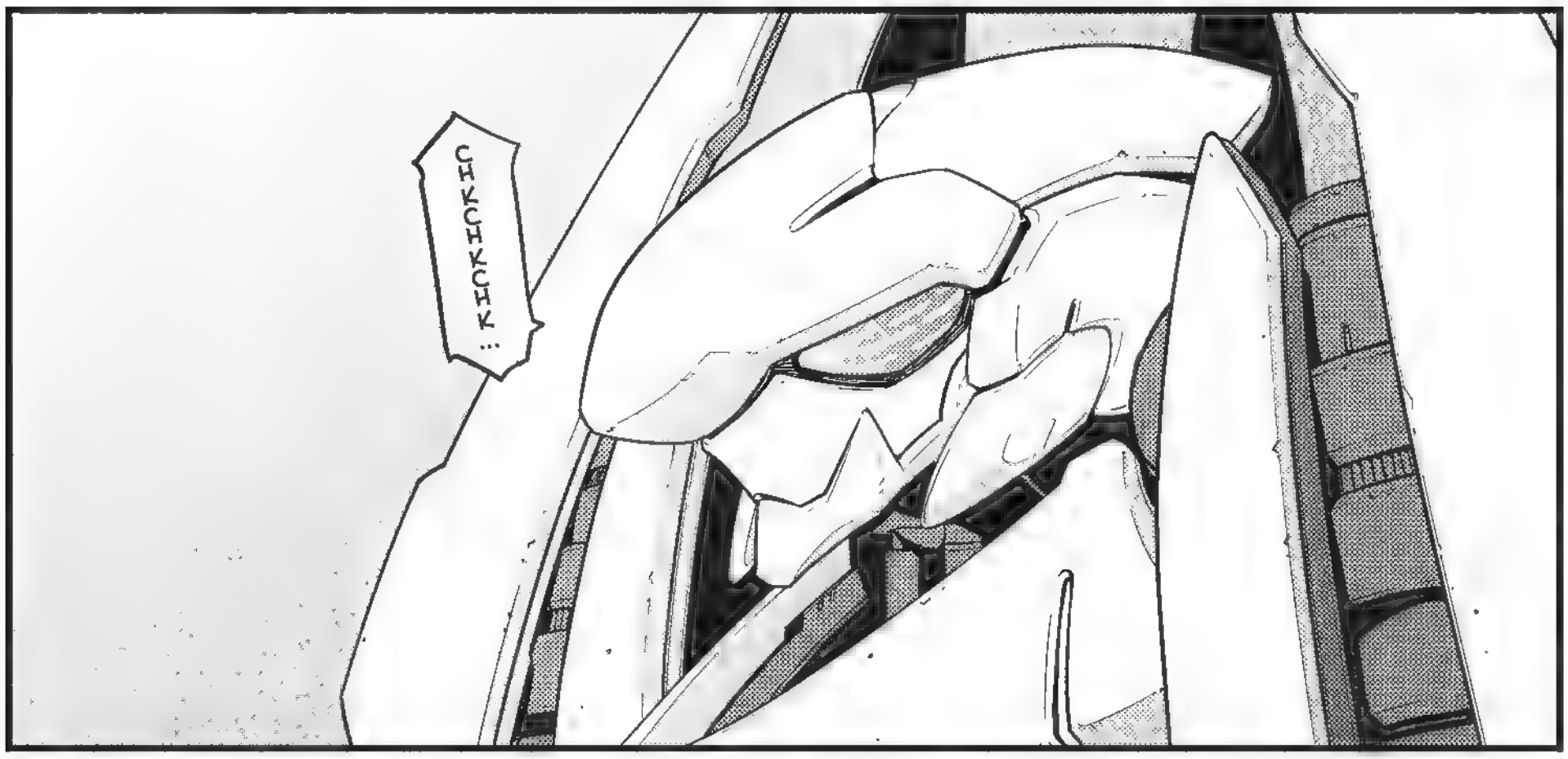
.....

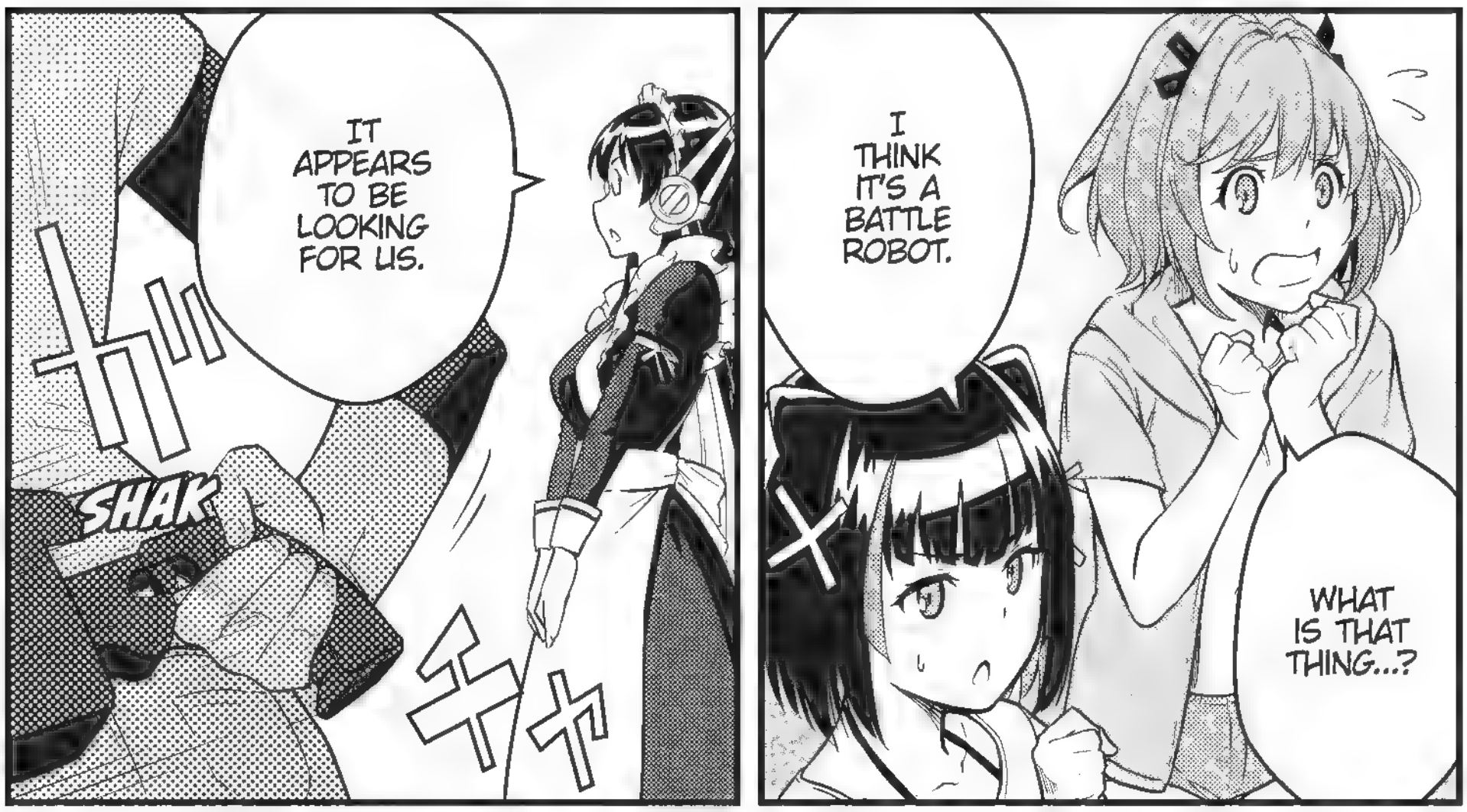
VREEN

SHUNK

KACHAK


OH, COME ON...


CHKCHKCHK...


IT APPEARS TO BE LOOKING FOR US.
SHAK
I THINK IT'S A BATTLE ROBOT.
WHAT IS THAT THING...?

VWOOSH
YUP!!
CHAK
shup
HIRO!!
VWOOSH

Chapter 30

TYOOM
?!
WHOOOOOOOOOSH
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

TYOOM
TYOOM
TYOOM
TYOOM
TYOOM
BAM
BLAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BOOM
TWO

MEI, ARE ALL THOSE FIREBALLS ROBOTS?

BASED ON MY ANALYSIS, YES.

GOOD THING OUR LASER GUNS WORKED ON THEM.

AND WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

THE ISLAND'S DEFENSE FORCES ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN BATTLE.

CHUK

OUR LASER GUNS MIGHT'VE WORKED, BUT THOSE THINGS STILL TOOK A FEW MAX-POWER SHOTS.

HOW MANY ENERGY MAGS YOU GOT LEFT, ELMA?

TWO.

I'VE GOT FOUR, SO TAKE ONE.

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOUR AIM IS BETTER THAN MINE.

?

chuk

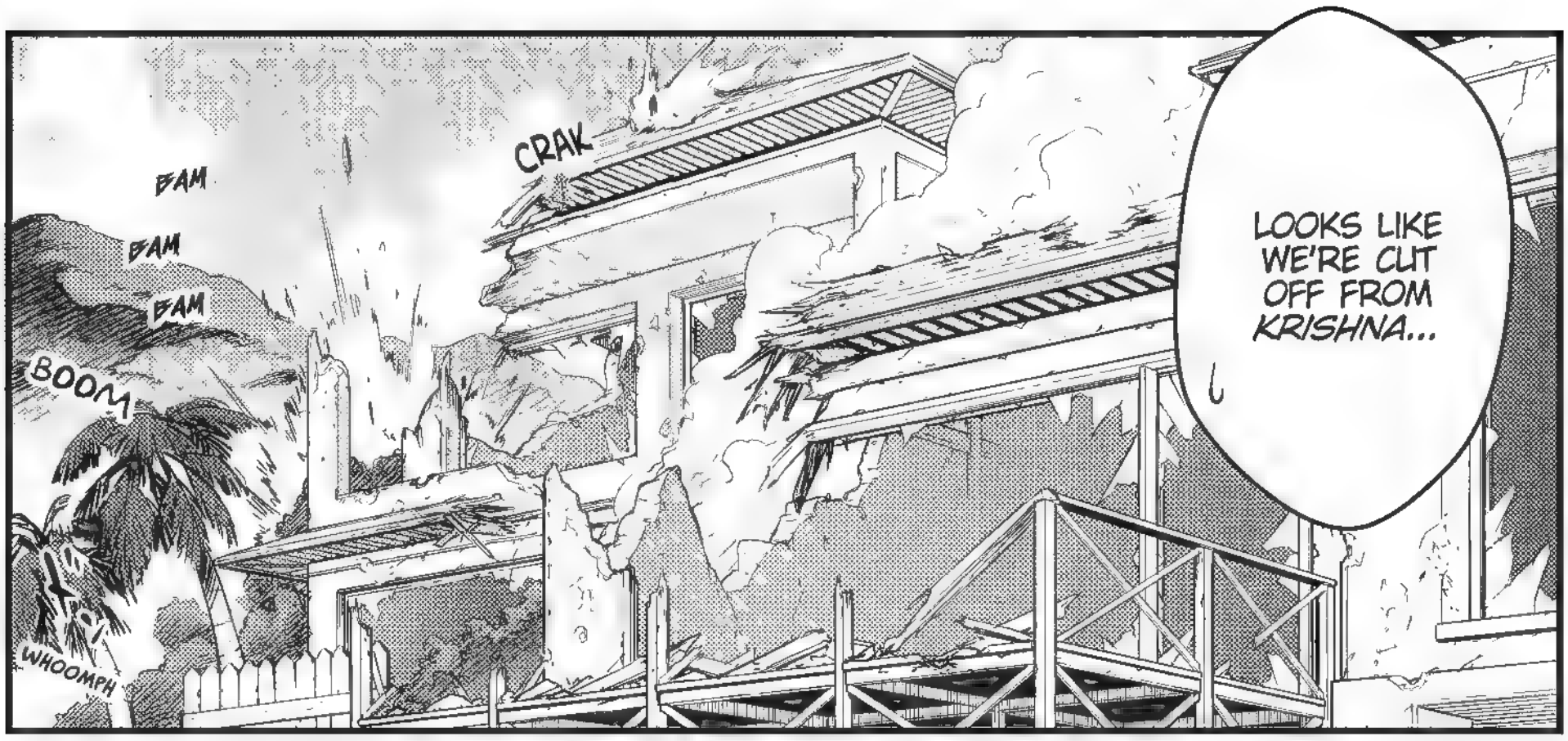
shnk

NO, KEEP IT.

glance

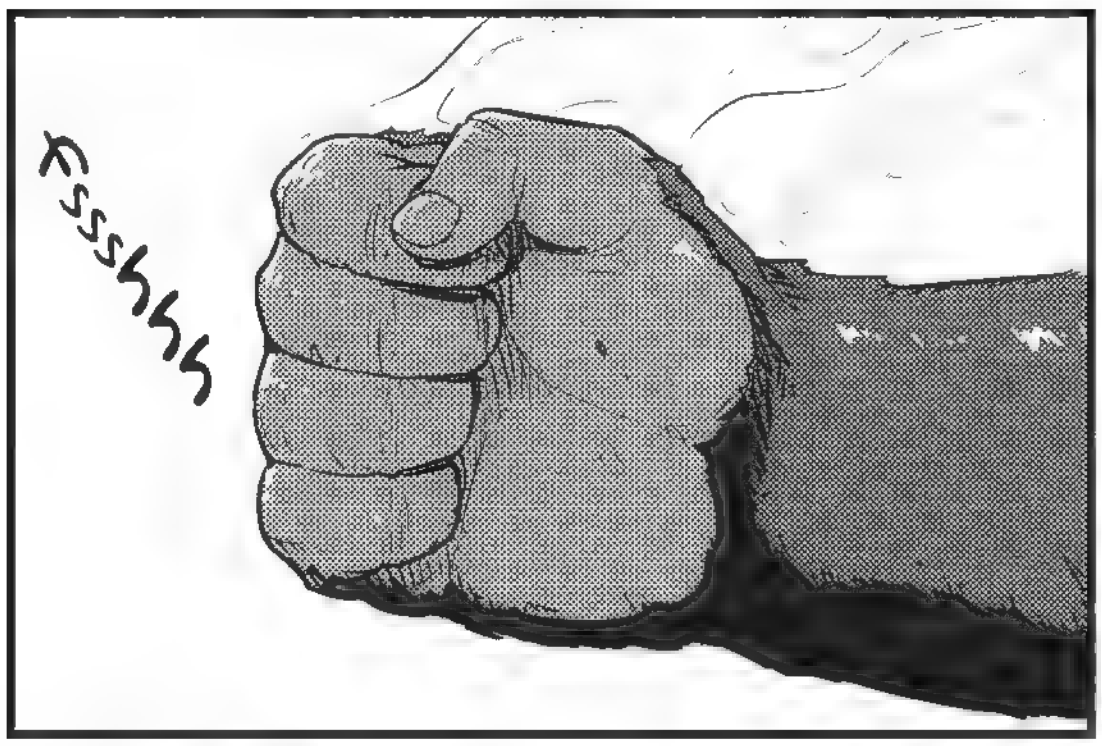
.....

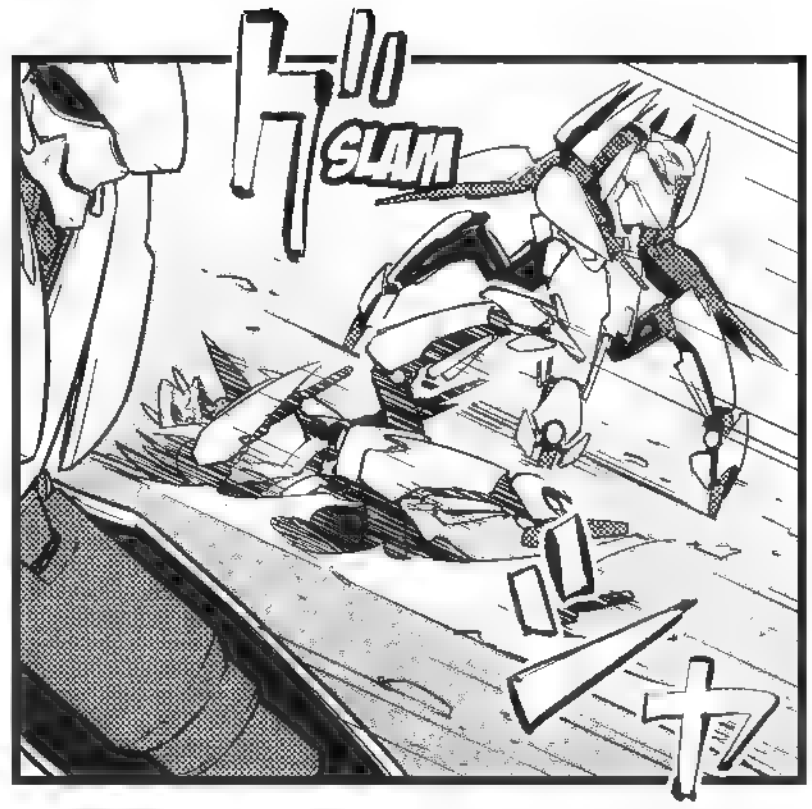
HMM...


BAM
BAM
BAM
BOOM
CRAK
WHOOMPH
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE CUT OFF FROM KRISHNA...

THAT ASIDE...
EXACTLY, THEY'RE AFTER ME, SO...
MY SINCERE APOLO-GIES.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
THE DEFENSE FORCES ARE FIGHTING BACK, BUT THE ENEMY HAS SIGNIFICANT FIREPOWER, SO THEY ARE CURRENTLY DEADLOCKED.

BAM
BAM
THE DEFENSE FORCES YOU MENTIONED...


Fsssh


SLAM

RROOOOAAAAR

SKRIKRIK
KRUNCH

THUMP

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
VWSH
VWSH
KRAK
SH-SHNK
LEAP
WHOOSH
KRUNCH
WOOSH

WILL *KRISHNA* BE OKAY?

HOWEVER, THE ENEMY ROBOTS ARE ALSO QUITE STRONG. THUS, THEY ARE AT A STALEMATE.

IT'S A PRETTY UNIQUE ASSORT-MENT...

A GORILLA AND A COCONUT CRAB?

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ROBOT DEFENSE FORCE.

VWEEEEEEN

STILL, I WANNA GET TO IT ASAP.

I REMOTE-ACTIVATED THE SHIELDS, SO IT SHOULD BE FINE.

YOU ALL STAY BACK.

FOR THAT, I'VE GOTTA SUPPORT OUR TROOPS.

MMPH.

SUUU...

HAAA...

WHOOSH

CHAK

?!

WEEEEE

SHIK

FWOO...

GLOW

CHEEM

TSEEN

BA-BAM

BA-BAM

SHEEM

BA-BAM

VWOO...

?!

GZZRRK

DNE3

TYOOM

WONK

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
BOOM
.....
HAA
HAA
HAA
I'M FINE. JUST CATCHING MY BREATH.
CAPTAIN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU HURT?!
NO IDEA WHY, THOUGH.
THINGS SEEM TO MOVE IN SLOW MOTION.
whew...
RECENTLY, I'VE NOTICED THAT WHEN I HOLD MY BREATH...
GOT IT!
THEIR WEAKNESS IS THE LASER GUN ON THEIR ARMS.
ELMA ...

SHOOM

TYOOM

SKSSH

gzrk

gzrk

BLAM

LOOM

CREAK

VWRRR...

WOHHHH!!

SMASH

BASH

BAM

BAM BAM

FWSH

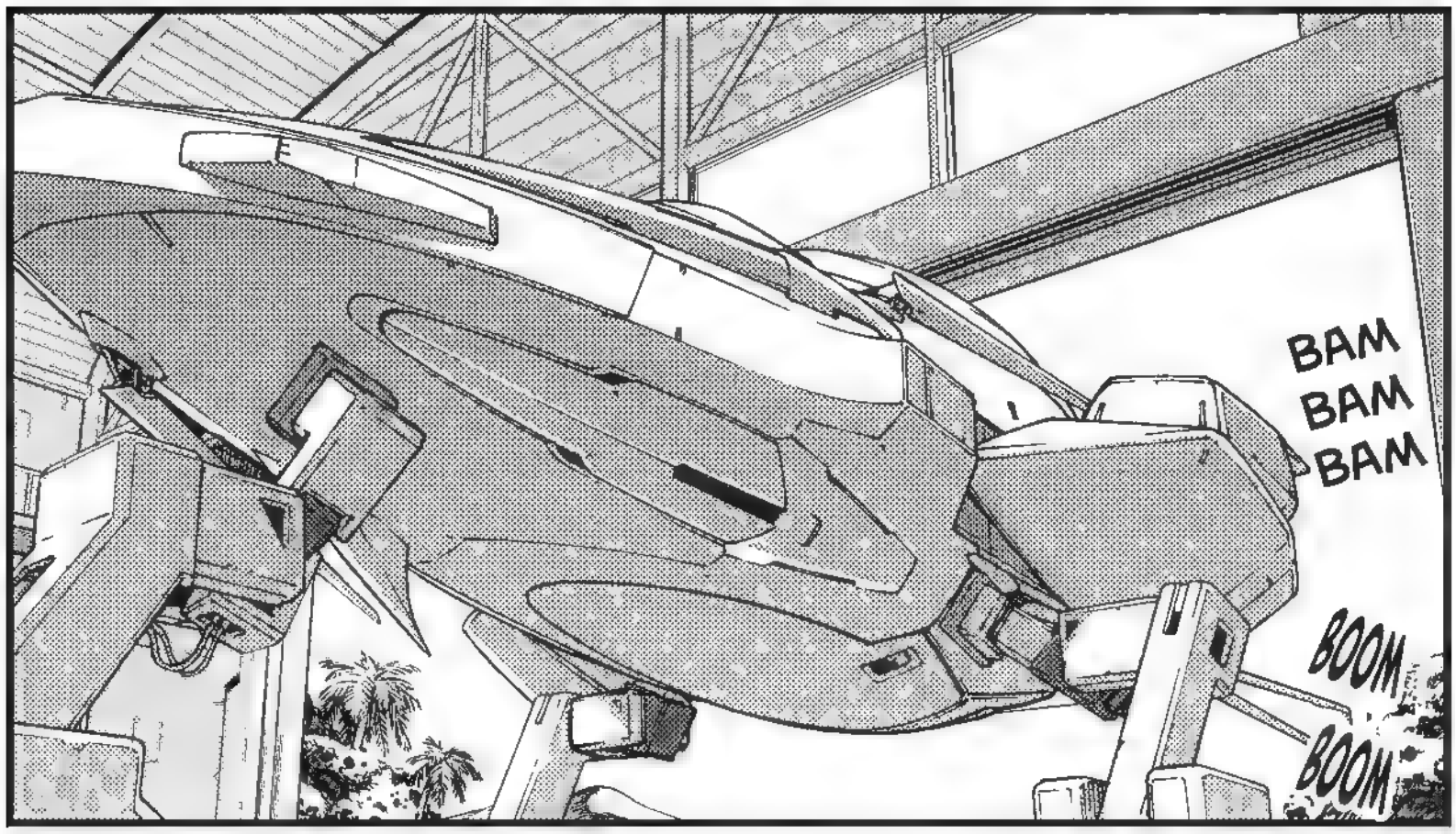
VWSH

BREEEEE

KRUNCH

CHOMP

WHOOMPH


BAM
BAM
BAM
BOOM
BOOM

BUT THANKS TO THEM WE DID.
I WASN'T SURE WE WOULD MAKE IT BACK THERE...
WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE...

RUMBLE

JITTER

JITTER

WHOA!

WHILE THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES, THE BEST PLAN IS TO PROBABLY JUST SIT QUIETLY.

BUT...

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE SAFEST IN HERE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

AND LARGER VESSELS HAVE BEGUN ORBITAL BOMBARDMENTS AGAINST VARIOUS SURFACE TARGETS...

WHICH ARE NEAR THIS ISLAND.

COR-RECT.

NUMEROUS SMALL PIRATE VESSELS ARE DESCENDING.

SOUNDS LIKE THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL.

*THAT MEANS STAYING HERE ISN'T REALLY THE BEST PLAN...*

I SUSPECT THE SIGNAL IS BEING JAMMED.

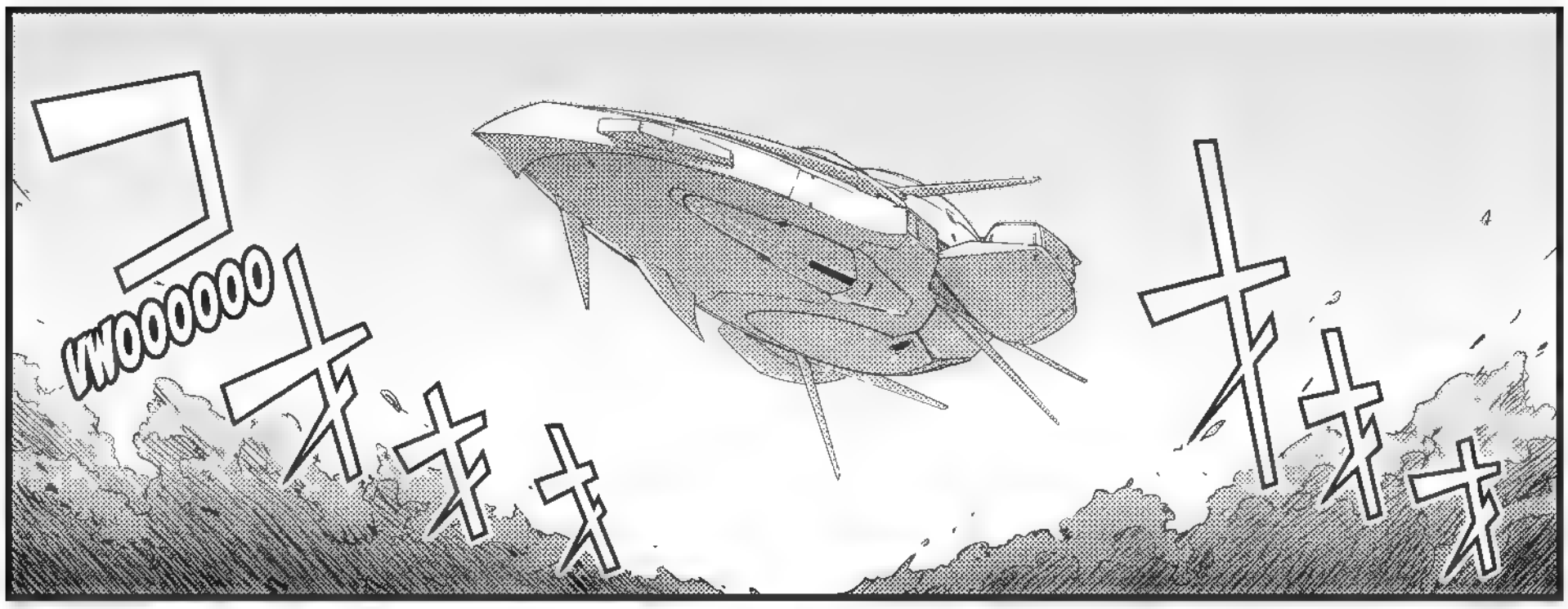
NOT YET.

ANY WORD FROM THE IMPERIAL FLEET?

DO ALL OF YOUR CHECKS ON THE WAY!

THWUMP

LET'S GET IN THE AIR!


WOOOOOO

WE'RE GONNA TAKE OUT ANYONE THAT COMES AT US.
THAT'S BIG, BUT I NEED YOU LOOKING OUT FOR THE SMALL PIRATE SHIPS RIGHT NOW.
ERR, SHOULD I BE MOST WORRIED ABOUT THE ORBITAL SHELLING?

BUT THE PIRATES HAVE PROBABLY DONE EVEN LESS.
NOT A TON.
HAVE YOU DONE MUCH FIGHTING IN GRAVITY?

GLINT
SPARKLE
MULTIPLE HIGH-SPEED SIGNATURES DETECTED AT TEN O'CLOCK!!
.....
FWIP
GOTTA TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT!

FIRST SHOT WINS!!

DOOM

SHNK

CHNK

STRAIGHT TO THE ACTION, EH?

WHOOMPH

BLAM

BOOM

MORE SHIPS INCOMING!

GUESS THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING AN AMBUSH.

NOW THEY'RE ACTIVELY COMING FOR US.

WHOOOOOSH!!

WHOA!

ORBITAL SHELL INCOMING!!

CAP-TAIN!

WON'T STOP US FROM TAKING OUT THE REST OF THEM, THOUGH.

PIRATE VESSELS ARE CLOSING IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS!

ALL RIGHT, TIME TO GET SERIOUS.

IT'S NOT HARD TO DODGE THEM SINCE THEY'RE BALLISTIC...

BUT THEY CAN FORCE US TO ALTER COURSE.

THEY'RE QUITE RELAXED ...

SHAME THAT THEY PROBABLY DON'T HAVE GOOD BOUNTIES, THOUGH.

GOT A GOOD SELECTION OF PREY.

.....

TKOOM

TSOOM

WHOOOOOSH

INCOMING ON OUR REAR!!

FWSH

FWSH

SHOO

SHOO

SHOO

SHOO

FWOOM

TSINK

WE'RE GOING RIGHT INTO THAT CLOUD AHEAD!

HOMING MISSILES INCOMING!!

ELMA, POP THE FLARES!!

ON IT!

WHOOF

BOOF

WOOSH

FWOOM

Huh?

Did we get 'em?

WHOOF

THOOM

SHUNK

SHNK

?!

FLYING BACKWARD EVEN UNDER GRAVITY...

WHOOMPH

BLAM

BOOM

SPACESHIPS DON'T REALLY FOLLOW AERO-DYNAMICS, Y'KNOW?

IT'S PRETTY SIMILAR TO ZERO-G AT A LOW LEVEL.

NOW, ABOUT THE ONES THAT WE DIDN'T GET...

YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.

AH!

BREEEE!!

WE'LL MAKE QUICK WORK OF...

THEY'RE HIDING IN THE CLOUD, BUT WE CAN GET THEM WITH INFRARED.

WHOOOOOOSH

SMASH

CRASH

HOW DUMB...

FRIENDLY FIRE FROM ORBIT, HUH...?

NOO! MY BOUNTIES!

BOOOOM

WHOOOOOSH

LET'S GET THOSE BOUNTIES BEFORE THEY TAKE EACH OTHER OUT!

THEIR FAILURE TO STOP US EVEN AS WE ARE OUTNUMBERED, AND OUR UNEXPECTED COUNTERATTACK, IS THROWING THEM OFF.

YEAH, NOW'S OUR CHANCE.

LOOKS LIKE THAT'S ALL IN THIS AREA.

ERM...

PHEW...

AND ESCAPING THE PLANET'S GRAVITY REQUIRES A SPECIFIC TRAJECTORY, SO WE'D GET HIT BY THOSE KINETIC SHELLS.

I'D LIKE TO GET 'EM AS WELL, BUT THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE OF *KRISHNA'S* WEAPONS...

WHAT ABOUT THE ENEMIES STILL IN ORBIT?

BOOM

?!

WHAT TO DO...

?

PROJECTILES FIRED BY THE MASS DRIVERS.

HUH? WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

WHOOMPH

GUESS IT MAKES SENSE, THOUGH...

I THOUGHT THOSE WERE JUST FOR SENDING STUFF AROUND THE PLANET?

THOOM

BOOM

AS HAS THEIR SIGNAL-JAMMING EQUIPMENT.

AN IMPERIAL SQUAD IS EN ROUTE.

THE ENEMY'S ORBITAL FIREPOWER HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

twinkle

twinkle

PLEASE LEAVE THEM TO US AS WELL.

BREEEE

NO...

O-OH...

THEN I GUESS WE'LL JUST MOP UP THE...

BLIP

LOST

LOST

BLIP

LOST

BLIP

LOST

THE ENEMIES...

ARE ALL DIS-APPEAR-ING?

HUH ?!

CAPTAIN! SOMETHING ELSE IS BEING FIRED FROM ORBIT!

GRAB

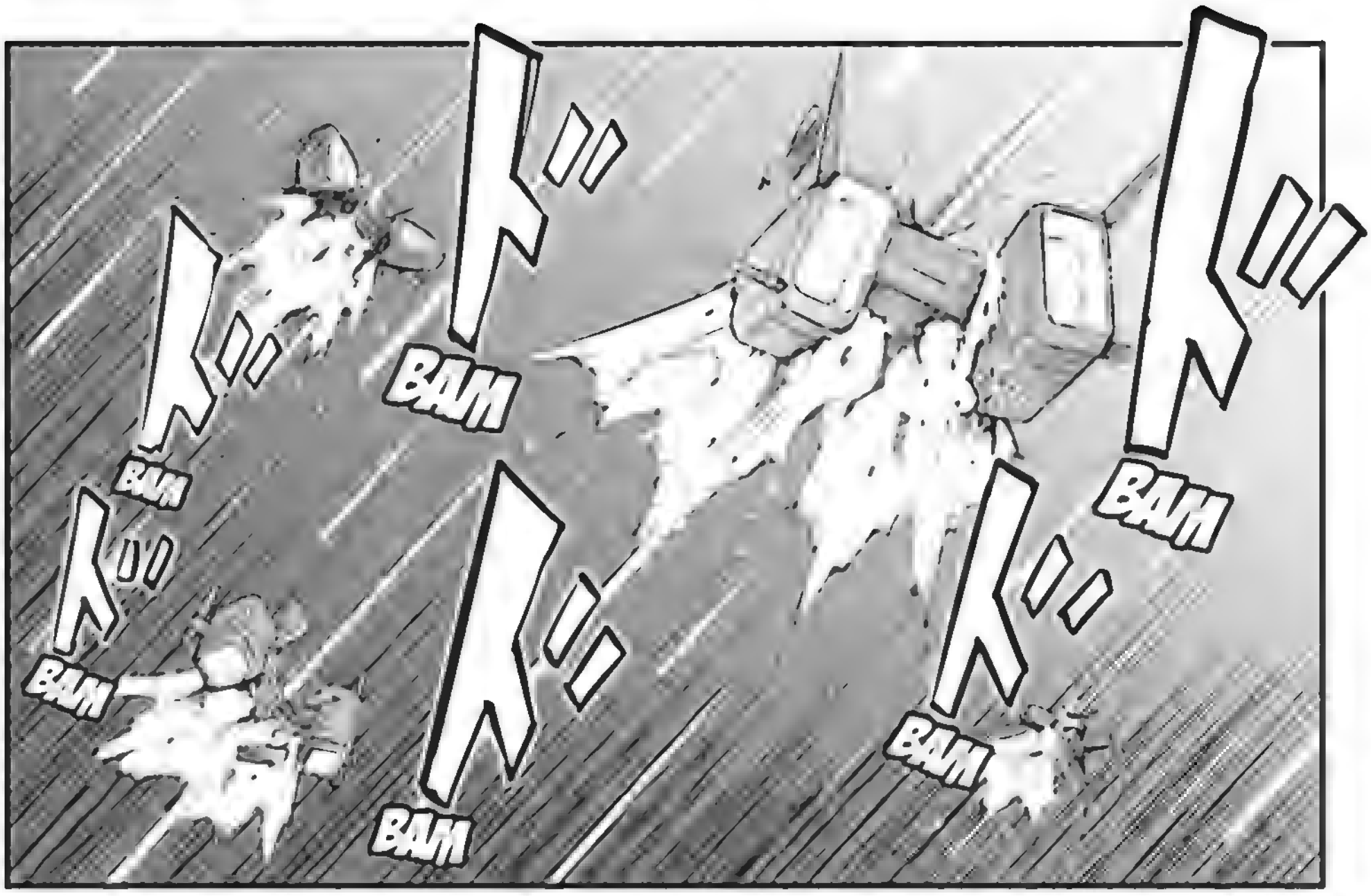
TWINKLE

BEEP

VWOOOOOOSH

PSSSHT

WHOOOOM


BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

WHOOM WHOOM
BOOM

MAN... I SERIOUSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED THE MASS DRIVERS...
MILO IS DIRECTLY CONTROLLING THE TRAJECTORY AND BURST POINT.
A SMART-BURST WARHEAD FROM THE MASS DRIVERS.

OH?

CAPTAIN, INCOMING WIDE-AREA TRANSMIS-SION.

Cease all combat immediately!

.....

BEEP

This is the Imperial Pirate-Hunting Unit.

In the name of His Majesty, the Emperor, further violence will not be tolerated!

THE IMPERIAL PIRATE-HUNTING UNIT...

WASN'T THAT...?

OH!

WAIT...

PHEW.

JEEZ, THE KNIGHTS ARE FINALLY HERE...

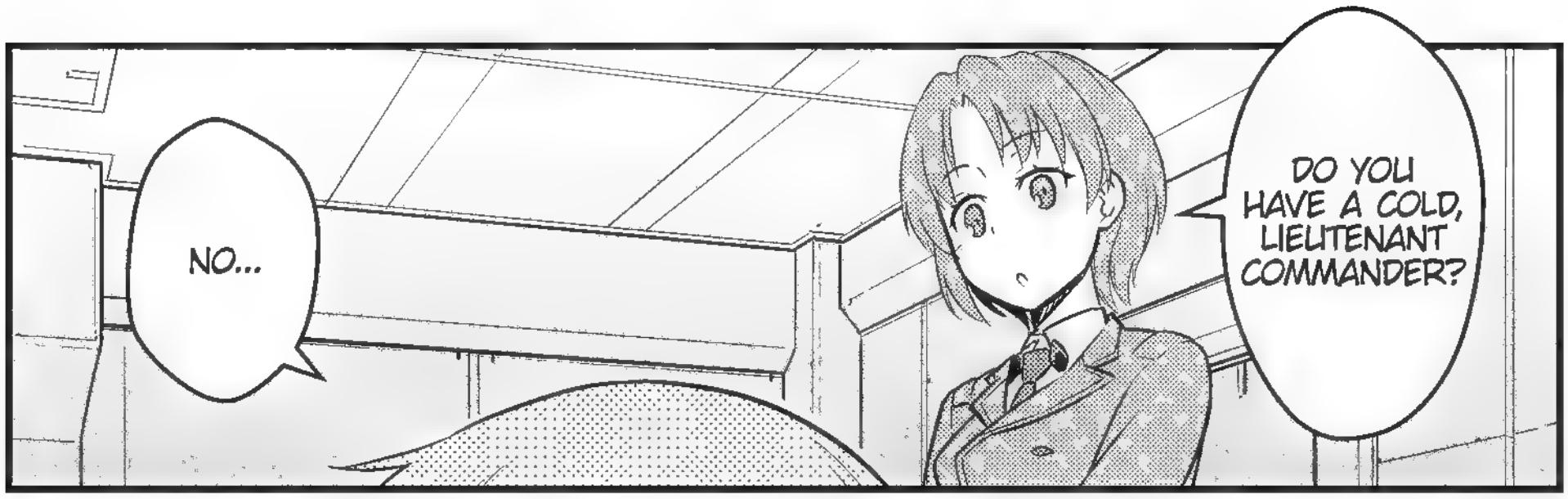
?

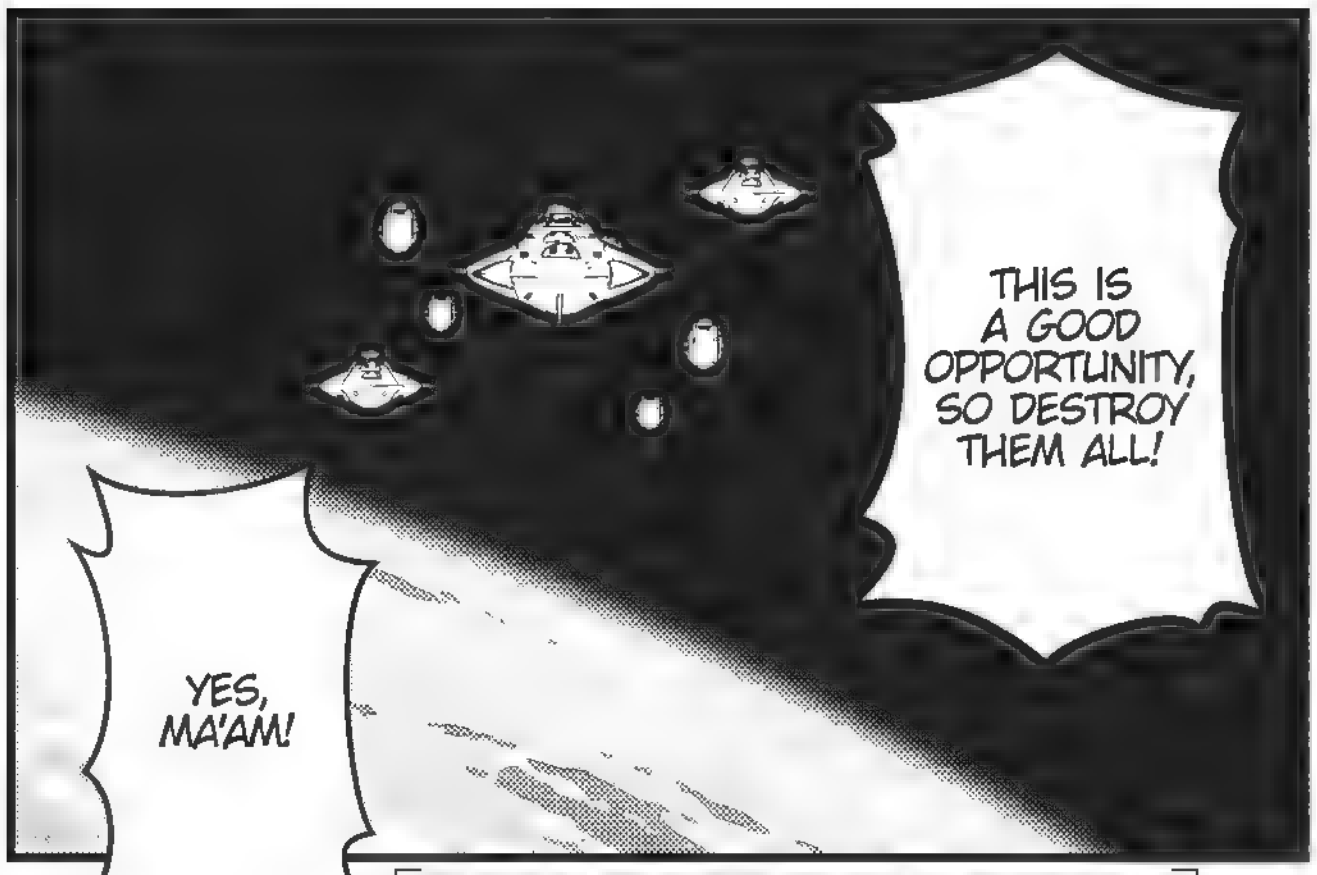
?

BASICALLY A STALKER AT THIS POINT...

IT MIGHT BE A COINCIDENCE, BUT IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S QUITE OBSESSED...

HA-CHOO!





to be continued

REBORN AS A

# SPACE MERCENARY

I WOKE UP PILOTING THE **STRONGEST STARSHIP!**

REBORN AS A
# SPACE MERCENARY
I WOKE UP PILOTING THE **STRONGEST STARSHIP!**

REBORN AS A SPACE MERCENARY: I WOKE UP PILOTING THE STRONGEST STARSHIP! VOL. 6
ART BY SHUNICHI MATSUI
STORY BY RYUTO
CHARACTER DESIGN BY TETSUHIRO NABESHIMA
MEZAMETARA SAIKYO SOBI TO UCHUSEN MOCHI DATTA NODE, IKKODATE MEZASHITE YOHEI TOSHITE JIYU NI IKITAI Vol.6
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ZG:23:HY:02:RE

# Time to Get Away!

After discovering the beautiful elf princess Chris in a cold sleep pod, former corporate cog Hiro has promised to protect her...from her own uncle! In order to shake off Chris's pursuers, Hiro decides to hide...on yet another resort system?! Time to go have a blast! Beaches! Bikinis! Robot maids! After all, the vacation planet's automatic defense system will protect them...right?!

OLDER TEEN (15+)

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